



Walter Jones.





JOHN A. SEAVERN

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832- 908.

By

FRANK H. REYNARD.

“ Life is chiefly froth and bubble ;
Two things stand like stone :
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.”

Lindsay Gordon.

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1908.

Preface.

In presenting the following pages to the reader, my chief desire has been to preserve the hunting records of a sporting country and Hunt ; which, although itself of no great antiquity, claims parentage from that famous Hunt, "The Raby." I have been admonished that there is little anecdote to be found in the book. There is not much. There are always lots of anecdotes afloat in any hunting field (and I have plenty of them). But it takes two people to make the anecdote, the one who scores, and the one scored off. Lest by any chance I should hurt the feelings of any connected with the latter section, I have decided to steer clear of the thorny path of "Anecdote," and have, with very few exceptions, entirely devoted myself to matters which solely appertain to hunting. As I have worked along from 1832 to the present date (only 75 years) it is sad to realize how quickly the hunting lore of a country dies out. Few who hunt regularly, keep diaries ; and farmers and others who remember details soon drop away, making it most difficult to obtain *authentic* information. I desire to offer my most sincere thanks to all who have assisted me in my venture ; by the loan of hunting diaries, accounts of runs, photographs, and various miscellaneous information.

One word to my hunting friends. Should the sale of the book more than cover the actual cost of production, I propose to hand all further proceeds to the Hunt Servants Benefit Society ; for the early Pension Fund—in my opinion a most needed and worthy object.

F. H. R.

CAMP HILL, BEDALE,
1908.

Contents.

CHAPTER I.		PAGE
THE LORDS DARLINGTON AND THE "RABY HOUNDS"	- - -	3
CHAPTER II.		
MR. MARK MILBANK, 1832—1856	- - -	23
CHAPTER III.		
THE HON. ERNEST DUNCOMBE (LORD FEVERSHAM) 1856—1867	- - -	62
CHAPTER IV.		
MR. JOHN J. BOOTH, 1867—1878	- - -	67
CHAPTER V.		
MAJOR HENRY F. DENT, 1878—1884	- - -	95
CHAPTER VI.		
MR. GEORGE ELLIOT, M.P., 1884—1888	- - -	117
CHAPTER VII.		
CAPTAIN W. P. WILSON-TODD, 1888—1896	- - -	123
CHAPTER VIII.		
MAJOR HENRY F. DENT, 1896—1898	- - -	146
CHAPTER IX.		
GEORGE GODOLPHIN, 10TH DUKE OF LEEDS, 1898—1904	- - -	154
CHAPTER X.		
MR. JOHN J. MOUBRAY, 1904	- - -	171
APPENDIX A.		
LIST OF MASTERS AND HUNT SERVANTS	- - -	199
APPENDIX B.		
SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE HOUNDS FROM 1867 TO 1908	- - -	201

THE BEDALE HOUNDS, 1832-1908.

CHAPTER I.

LORDS DARLINGTON AND DUKE OF CLEVELAND

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CHAPTER I.

LORDS DARLINGTON, AND DUKE OF CLEVELAND

Although the doings of the Raby Hounds do not intimately concern a narrative of the "Bedale," yet some few incidents and occurrences, prior to the formation of a Bedale Country proper, may be of interest.

From about the year 1787 until 1832 the country of which the Bedale now forms a part, was hunted by the second and third Lords Darlington; they also for six weeks in the autumn and spring of each year, hunted the present Badsworth Country.

In September 1792, William Harry succeeded his father as third Earl of Darlington, and shortly after 1794, he ceased to go to the Badsworth, devoting himself entirely to hunting in North Yorkshire and Durham; from the river Wear on the north, nearly down to the river Nidd on the south. In the season of 1810-11, we find him drawing Aldwark Woods, Brafferton Spring, Goldsboro' Woods, Laylands, Allerton Park, and Sessay Wood, all of which now belong to the York and Ainsty. The country within the above mentioned northern and southern

boundaries would, I imagine, have been known as the Raby.

When hunting the southern portion of this large tract of country, he resided at his hunting box, Newton House, near Leeming ; where there was ample stable and kennel accommodation for his establishment. One portion of his kennel arrangements, commented upon in those days as a novelty, was a passage leading from the feeding to the lodging room of hounds. This was made about six inches deep, capable of holding liquid ; and on hunting days was filled with broth from the copper. On their way back from the feeding to the lodging room, hounds were made to pass through this "river of broth." In consequence they licked their feet dry, and, as the healing property of a dog's tongue for any sore place is proverbial, the result was most satisfactory.

The Kennels were only about two hundred yards away from the house (where the present kitchen garden now is), and once when asked whether the smell from the boiling house was not sometimes rather strong and unpleasant, he replied, "It may be, but we are all too well bred for fox-hunting to mind that ; and a concord of sweet sounds from the Kennel compensates for any unsavoury smells."

This third Earl of Darlington must have been a great character in many ways : but hunting the fox appears to have been his passion.

It is recorded that he was all for riding ; and " four couples of hounds in front, and the rest coming on how they could," was the general order of things. The following verse taken from a poem written by Mr. M. Hawke, to commemorate a famous run with the Badsworth, from Howell Wood: perhaps happily describes him :—

" Then first in the burst, see dashing away,
Taking all in his stride, on Ralpho the gray,
With persuaders in flank, comes Darlington's Peer
With his chin sticking out, and his cap on his ear."*

In addition to his fondness for fox hunting, Lord Darlington was a firm supporter of the Turf; and the two Chifneys—Sam and Will—were closely connected with his racing stable. He gave very long prices for some of his horses, but few turned out really worth much. He won the Ascot Cup in 1827, with Memmon; the St. Leger in 1831, with Chorister; and ran second for the Derby of 1818, with a grey colt called Raby, being beaten three parts of a length by Sam.

He kept a large pack of hounds—about seventy couples—sometimes hunting with all young ones, when " the fun must have been fast and furious." But the usual number was twenty to twenty-five couples of mixed hounds.

His hunting diaries are a model of exactitude in necessary information. Brief, but

* Nimrod, in his " Hunting Tours and Letters on Riding to Hounds," states that in the year 1826, Lord Darlington wore a *hat* and a leather girdle across his shoulder. His two whippers-in were also in *hats*.

6 THE BEDALE HOUNDS, 1832-1908

every word to the point.

He notes the place and time of meeting, the coverts drawn, the day's sport, scent, weather, the vagaries of his "field," and the complaints of covert holders ; of which I give a specimen,

"1825-26. In consequence of the innumerable foxes which Lord T. reported to me were about K and attacking his hares (in the middle of the day one of his Lordship's keepers saw three foxes worrying a hare), I selected sixteen couples of my best and steadiest hounds to go to K at 11 o'clock, and obey his Lordship's behests. They tried every myrtle, rush, whinbush, hazel-tree, brick-kiln remains, thorn hedge, pleasure ground, and pheasant preserve appurtenances, without ever finding a fox, for nearly three hours ; except one unfortunate dog fox, which was instantly killed—labouring under a poisonous disorder called the scab." [Surely this must have been the mange ? *Ed.*]

Also a tabulated statement of every covert drawn. If foxes found or not, if any killed therefrom, foxes marked to ground, and the sex of each killed. So that at a glance one can see how different localities did or did not provide foxes, and from which most were killed. As will be seen later, Mr. Mark Milbank adopted the same system.

An extract from his diary of the season 1810-11, will give a fair idea of the sport during the period he hunted the Raby

country. Hunting began September 12th, and finished on the 3rd of April; hounds being out ninety-two days.

29½ brace of foxes were killed, 20½ were marked to ground, and there was no blank day.

At this date a Master of Hounds seems to have been troubled with an eager field, as the following extract records.

26th January, 1811.

“A very unfortunate vexatious day.

Mr. M. H. and several other equally dashing sportsmen out, whose anxiety, with some jealousy, though not blamable [can we see here a sneaking fondness for his own idea of ‘four couples on, and the rest of the pack anyhow?’ *Ed.*], tended to the destruction of sport. Besides, the hounds were by no means true to the scent; and incurred my grave displeasure.”

What a volume of what not to do, and how it is so easily done, is summed up in the above few words.

The destruction of sport in the first instance, and then by being over-ridden how his hounds became wild, and incurred his grave displeasure. Those of us nearly a hundred years younger, may well ponder over these remarks and lay them well to heart.

The question of costume in the hunting field, has recently been the subject of some discussion in the papers. The following from “Nimrod’s Hunting Tour” when hunting

with the 'Bedale,' reads rather to the point, in favour of a correct form of dress.

"Mr. F. had a heavy fall, but is none the worse. I attribute the disaster to this cause. The Goddess of Hunting is easily affronted, and when she knits her brows is of vindictive temper, sometimes requiring even human sacrifice. Mr. F's costume was ill-suited to her court: he was attired in white Russian-duck trousers and Wellington boots, looking very unlike a fox-hunter in the end of November. As his cloth was *black*, he ought to have remembered the words of the text, 'How camest thou in hither, not having a wedding garment?'"

Although I have had a good many falls, I have at least the satisfaction of knowing that they all happened when I had on my "wedding garments," top-boots, leathers and scarlet.

A run which took place on the 5th March, 1811, is well worthy of record, and I give it in Lord D.'s own words.

"Threw off at Hollin Head Wood. Did not find till we got to the Whin covert, north of Winksley, where we did handsomely.

Ran west towards Pateley Bridge, then turned past Ensley, and Grantley Gates, down Spa Gyll out towards Sawley; into Fountains Vale, through Studley Gardens, down the Park, back through the Gardens, past Fountains Abbey to Spa Gyll; from thence took straight over the country, by Aldfield, in a direct line as straight as a

crow can fly for seven miles to Hackfall. Ran through here out at the north end, crossed the river Yore, down Maudlin Banks to Tanfield Hall, to the west of Heslett's Wood nearly up to the village of Binsoe. Here the fox was headed, and turned short back by Aldburgh Hall across to Upbank Wood, where hounds ran very hard (and I viewed him). He broke away two fields towards Gibdykes, but hounds running from scent to view killed him in a ploughed field after one of the most brilliant runs that I have witnessed for some years in any country; and hounds behaved to admiration. Sir Bellingham Graham and Mr. Morley rode very conspicuously and well for two hours and forty minutes, but we continued to run brilliantly for another fifty-five minutes afterwards, making in the whole a chase of three hours and thirty-five minutes, at the end of which my good friend Godfrey Wentworth was present, and equally rejoiced as myself."

During the period that he hunted the Badsworth Country, Lord Darlington established a " Hunt Club " at Ferrybridge near Pontefract, which was close to the residence he rented, Belham House. The reason he did so being: " That he was of opinion it was desirable that sportsmen should meet together pretty often to discuss their sport, the preservation of foxes, the making of new coverts, and anything likely to improve the country from a fox hunting point of view."

In the year 1808, he established another

10 THE BEDALE HOUNDS, 1832-1908

Hunt Club, in the southern portion of the Raby Country, at Boroughbridge, and it was directed that the members of the club should wear the uniform of the Hunt.

In the same year a club was formed at Beverley by the followers of Sir Mark Sykes's and Mr. Watt's hounds (then Masters of the Holderness).

These Hunt Clubs seem to have been popular institutions, for in 1816, hunting people in the Bedale neighbourhood formed one, and the following is a list of the original members, with some quaint resolutions which are instructive, as concerns poultry damage, and the making of new coverts.

**THE
RABY HUNT
BEDALE CLUB;**

COMMENCING

31st. OCTOBER 1816.

At a Meeting of the RABY HUNT,

Held this 31st. Day of OCTOBER 1816,

at the Black Swan Inn,

BEDALE.

*The following Noblemen and Gentlemen of the said Hunt.
agree to form a CLUB, (viz.)*

*The Duke of Leeds.
The Earl of Darlington.
J. W. Clough, Esq.
M. Wyville, Esq.
S. Scroope, Esq.
H. Witham, Esq.*

*S. Cradock, Esq.
John Allan, Esq.
Gervard B. Wharton, Esq.
Richard Peirse, Esq.
Thomas Davison, Esq.
George Healey, Esq.*

Members Elected,

*Mark Milbank, Esq.
Francis Ingram, Esq.
Hon. Col. Dix.
Rev. John T. Monson.
George Hartley, Esq.
Sir John P. Beresford, Bart.
Rev. Edward Wyvill.
G. Adam Askew, Esq.
Thomas Lawson, Esq.
Hon. Captain Dundass.
Thomas Dundass, Esq.
Christopher Wyville, Esq.
Jacob Maude, Esq.
James H. D'Arcy Hutton Esq.
Captain O'Callaghan.
Rev. George Ford Clarke.*

*Rodrick J. Murchinson.
William Armytage, Esq.
Simon Scroope, Esq.
Henry Tower, Esq.
Edmund Turton, Esq.
John Wormald, Esq.
William Russell, Esq.
Edward Copley, Esq.
Major St. Paul.
Col. Mayrick.
George Wilkinson, Esq.
Col. Elsley.
John Hutton, Esq.
Henry Wormald, Esq.
John Clough, Esq.*

By the year 1829 the following Gentlemen had been added :—

*The Honble. Col. Arden.
W. C. Harland, Esq.
Thomas Maude, Esq.
Sir Bellingham Graham, Bart.
T. K. Staveley, Esq.*

*Henry Claridge, Esq.
John Hodgson, Esq.
Capt. Edward Watts, R.N.
Rev. Ewart.
George Wombwell, Esq.*

Resolved,

THAT the Annual Subscription of each Member shall be Five Guineas, to commence this Day, and to be paid to the Inn-keeper of the Black Swan, in the course of the First Meeting of each Season, and in failure thereof, the Name of such defaulter shall be put up in the Club Room on the first Day of the ensuing Meeting, unless the Subscription is Paid, and if not paid before the First Day of November next, the Name of such Defaulter to be erased from the Club.

THAT the Subscriptions be applied in defraying the Expences of the Breakfasts and Dinners only, and that each Stranger pay Half a Guinea for his Dinner

BEDALE, 19, November, 1818.

Resolved,

THAT the Dinner Bill shall be brought to the President Two Hours and a Half after the Cloth is drawn by the Master of the House, under a forfeit of One Guinea to the Club, each time he fails to do so.

Resolved,

THAT the President shall leave the Chair after the Bottle of Wine is finished, which is in circulation at the time the Bill is delivered to him, or in Failure of his doing so, the President shall forfeit Three Guineas to the Club.

Resolved,

THAT Tea and Coffee shall be ready in another Room at the time the Bill is delivered.

Resolved,

THAT an allowance of Thirty Shillings shall be made to the Innkeeper each week during the continuance of the Hunt, in the event of no Club Dinners being served in that week for more than 6 members.

BEDALE, 4, November, 1819.

Resolved,

THAT the above Rule declaring the Wines to be drank at the Expence of the Club should be Port and Sherry only, shall be so far extended as to allow Claret to be drank, but that no more Claret than one Bottle per head for each Person present shall be drank, unless called for by any Member under the sanction of the President, within the prescribed Club Hours, and for which extra Wine, Twelve Shillings per Bottle must be paid by the Member who calls for it.

THAT the Meetings shall commence on the First Day that Lord *Darlington's* Fox Hounds shall Hunt from *Newton House*, and continue till the Last Day of Hunting from thence.

THAT the Dinner be furnished at Five Shillings per Head, including Malt Liquor and Desert.

THAT any Gentleman wishing to become a Candidate for the Club, shall be proposed and seconded by two Members thereof, to be inserted in a Book kept for that purpose by the Innkeeper, Five days previous to his being Balloted for; Five Members to constitute a Ballot, and one Black Ball to exclude.

THAT the above Resolutions be printed, and a Copy transmitted to each Member Annually, during the First Week in October.

BEDALE, 30, March, 1821.

Resolved,

THAT Sixpence per head be allowed to the Waiter in the Daily Bill, for each Person who Dines at the Club, and to be charged in the Bill.

BEDALE, 8, November, 1821.

IT is resolved that the Rules which relate to the Restriction as to the Qualities of the Wine to be drank by the Club shall be Rescinded.

ALSO that any Member who shall call for Wine after the Bill is delivered at the Regulated Hour shall forfeit to the Club the same Fine of Three Guineas, as the President is already subject to.

BEDALE, 15, November, 1821.

Resolved,

THAT a good Cook be engaged at the expence of the Club, to dress the Dinner every Thursday, during the Meetings of the Club each Season.

ALSO that Two Dozen of Silver Forks be immediately ordered at the expence of the Club to be their Property, bearing the same impression as the Button of the Raby Uniform; and the Earl of *Darlington* and *Mark Milbank* be requested to make the necessary arrangements for carrying the above Resolution into effect.

BEDALE, 22, November, 1821.

Resolved,

THAT the following Gentlemen, or any three of them, form a Committee to adjust and settle all Claims made by Persons for Losses sustained by the Destruction of Poultry by Foxes, and that the amount of the sum so settled and adjusted by such Committee, shall be paid out of the Funds of the Club.

Darlington,
Mark Milbank,
George Ford Clarke,
John Monson,
Sheldon Cradock,
Gerard B. Wharton,
George Healey,
Edward Wyvill,
Henry Tower.

BEDALE, 9, January, 1823.

Resolved,

THAT a Whin Cover shall be made at the expence of the Club, consisting of not less than 12 acres nor more than 16 acres, the Rent of which as well as every other attendant expence, are to be defrayed by the Club in future.

Resolved,

THAT Colonel *Cradock* be requested to engage and to select the most desirable situation for the above named Cover, and that Colonel *Cradock* and Lord *Darlington* shall give the necessary Orders for carrying the same into effect.

Darlington.
Mark Milbank,
John J. T. Monson,
Henry Tower,
George Ford Clarke.

BEDALE, 31, March, 1825.

Resolved,

THAT no Dinner or Wine, if served before Six o'clock, shall be paid for out of the Funds of the Club.

Mark Milbank.

Cleveland.

C. Wyvill.

Henry Tower.

J. Clough.

W. S. Mayrick.

BEDALE, 19, November, 1829.

Resolved,

THAT in consequence of the increase of the funds of the Club, the Annual Subscription shall only be Three Pounds instead of Five Guineas, commencing from the beginning of the present season. Resolved that Mr. Bedford shall address each Member by letter to request the Amount of arrears to be immediately remitted; at the same time stating that the Annual Subscription was reduced to Three Pounds, from the beginning of the present season. That all replies Mr. B. receives shall be laid before the Club.

Todd and Sons, Printers, Bedale.

EDITORS' NOTE.—I find that the weekly day of the Club dinner was on a Thursday, when Lord Darlington was most particular in being present. A Chairman or President was selected for each Club dinner. The Club had their own cellar of wine, and in 1822 had a fund of about £450.

* The 6th Duke of Leeds kept a pack of fox-hounds at Hornby Castle, with Kit Scaife as huntsman and Will Danby as whipper-in, hunting the country west of the Castle, beyond Askrigg and Hawes. The "Druid" in *Silk and Scarlet* thus describes it. "A singularly wild and beautiful one, all dells and ling. Hounds constantly ran into Westmoreland, and they used to return by ones and twos to kennels, at all hours of the night. Once—no one being with them, they ran a fox to ground in Masham Moor Heads, thirty miles from kennels."*

In 1816, owing to some disagreement with Lord Darlington, the Duke decided to give up his hounds, and they were sold.

A few couples were bought by Mr. Tom Hodgson, then Master of the Badsworth; and eighteen couples by the Committee of the York and Ainsty—a body which had just been constituted to manage the affairs of this pack of hounds.

On the break up of the Duke's hunting establishment, Skaife became head of his racing one, having as his head lad, John Osborne (father of Mr. John Osborne, of Brecongill), and Sim Templeman as the stable jockey.

Will Danby deserves more than a cursory remark, as he was a Bedale bred man—

* The Duke must have kept a fairly large number of hounds, as in the year 1809, I find that the Duke of Rutland bought 15½ couples from him. At this particular date they did not breed the number of hounds at Belvoir that they did a few years later, and of course do now.

a typical Yorkshireman—and a rare huntsman.

He was the son of a tenant farmer, on the Hornby Castle estate, and was being brought up to the pursuit of agriculture. When fourteen years of age (1809), some buildings on his father's farm were taken and converted into kennels for the Duke's hounds. From that moment his heart went out to hounds and remained there till his death.

He was deputed to take—by road—the eighteen couples of hounds mentioned, to the York and Ainsty Kennel at Knavesmire, and remain there as a whipper-in.

The kennel buildings had only just been completed, and the benches were of such a flimsy nature, that as soon as the eighteen couples rushed on to them, they collapsed. Mr. Clough, who was the working member of the York and Ainsty Committee, and who was present to see the draft come in, used such violent language, when the above catastrophe took place, that Will decided it was no place for him, and he went off ; taking service with Mr. Tom Hodgson, who was then Master of the Badsworth. From here he was for a short time with the 6th Lord Scarborough, when he had the Grove, and then went to a pack of harriers near Halifax.

When Mr. Tom Hodgson took the Holderness in 1824, Will decided to try and get back to his old Master, who was then living at Snydale, near Normanton ; to which place Will walked from Halifax in his top-

boots, a distance of twenty-two miles in six hours. Mr. Hodgson was so delighted with the man's energy and keenness that he engaged him on the spot, *at a guinea a week, as First Whipper-in and Kennel Huntsman*. On expressing surprise that Will proposed to return on foot, he was met with the reply, "The distance mattered nowt." Forty-four miles in top-boots!!!

The sport shown by Mr. Hodgson and Will Danby in Holderness needs no comment here—it is too well known. It only remains to say that Will had not seen the last of the York and Ainsty in 1817, as he thought; for in 1837 he returned to that pack as huntsman to Mr. George Lloyd, and remained there until 1853, when Sir Charles Slingsby took the country, and decided to hunt hounds himself. He was presented with a handsome testimonial on his retirement, and there is now a capital oil painting of him—with some hounds—in the Yorkshire Club at York.*

He did not stand down for very long, as 1855 saw him huntsman to the Hurworth hounds.

The following is a quaint account by Lord Darlington, of a run from Newton House, on November 17th, 1821:—

"Met at 11 a.m.

Found in Gatenby Whin, broke away to the south past Allerthorpe nearly up to Pickhill

* The painting is by I. W. Snow, and is dated 1845.

village, turned to the right and crossed the Leeming Lane half a mile north of Butcher Bar, from thence by Kirklington, Sutton Howgrave and Middleton Quernhow, to the Bottoms near to Wath village, where he turned to the left, and went straight behind York Gate to the Leeming Lane, which he crossed near to the corner of Hutton Moor, from there down towards the Baldersby Lane, when being headed, he turned back, and hounds killed him—an old dog fox.

A most gallant run, and chiefly very quick for one hour and thirty-five minutes. Had eight and a half couples of young, and thirteen of old hounds out.
Mr. Ward's 'Boniface' kept the head of the pack in a most astonishing and superior manner, without deigning to go through a hedge or a gate, all of which he flew. I was riding 'Wizard,' who carried me with his accustomed ease, elegance and superiority, and for the last few miles of the run, which may be computed at sixteen, he went with his head up and proud of his place, like a monarch clothed in coronation robes."

The following letter describes a fierce encounter between a labourer and a "poultry stealing" fox.

To The Most Honourable,
The Marquess of Cleveland,
Newton House.

My Lord Marquess,
I have taken the liberty of sending to your

Lordship a fox, which was taken by a poor man (who lives in a cottage near me) this morning in the following singular way. He was awoke very early by a fox taking away one of his geese. Without any clothes on, or even a stick in his hand he followed, shouting, trying to recover his goose. The man came up to the fox (I think) in the middle of the second field, and after fighting some time (the man having received several very severe bites in his hands) at last got hold of him with his teeth, and secured him. I could not persuade the man to let him off again, so thought it best to send to your Lordship, as for fear he might be destroyed.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lord Marquess,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

Sd. JOHN HUTTON.

Sowber Hill,

23rd December, 1831.

In 1832, Lord Darlington gave up hunting the southern part of the Raby country, which brings us to the formation of the "Bedale Hunt," to be described in the next chapter. Before, however, leaving Lord Darlington and his country, the comments of "Nimrod" on it in particular, and Yorkshire in general, about the year 1826, may be of interest. He writes: "It (Yorkshire) is too close to enjoy hounds in, and subject to everlasting interruption from coverts, rivers, canals and railroads. The ploughed land in some parts may

be described as rotten, rather than deep : but in the Bedale country the grass land is particularly sound and dry. The fences, with the exception of the 'stells' or brooks, are such as do not so much put to the test the spring and power of a hunter, as his temper and the ready use of his legs.

It is a country in which men who ride quickly over it must get falls.

For scent, I should say, Yorkshire is upon the whole favourable, and Holderness good to the proverb : 'In a wet season, any fool could kill a fox with a litter of pigs,' but notwithstanding this I have reason to think *straightforward runs* are scarce articles in this land of sporting. It must, however, be recollected that the majority of the coverts are whins, and ringing runs generally prevail where they abound, which accounts for the ease with which gentlemen now jump upon their second horses in Leicestershire. A fox breaking from a wood has usually time to look about him, steal quietly away, and make his point ; but from a gorse covert he is almost always viewed away, is alarmed, gets blown, and turns short."

[With the greatest deference to "Nimrod," I fail, writing eighty years later, to agree with him. Not only in Yorkshire but in other counties I have seen the best of points, gallops, and hunts from whin or gorse coverts. They are a necessity after the end of December, when most woodlands lose their undergrowth, the wind sweeps through them

and foxes seldom lie in them. From a woodland, hounds do not very often get a good start with a fox ; and the making of most good runs, whether from a huntsman's point of view (i.e., Blood) or the " hard rider's " ; is to get away on the back of a fox. This generally comes off from a whin covert, if the " field " is kept in its proper place, and " in order." ED.]

He appears to have been attracted by the manly and independent bearing of the Yorkshireman generally, together with his quaint humour and somewhat laconic expression. An instance of which, having reference to Lord Darlington, he thus relates :—

" Lord Darlington was posting somewhere, and changing horses at an inn where he was well-known, expressed a wish that no time should be lost on the way, as he was in a hurry. ' Drive my Lord WELL, lads,' to the postillions, said the Landlord. ' But '—in an undertone—' Mind me, don't over-egg't'pudden.' i.e., Don't overdrive and kill the horses."

“THE RABY” COUNTRY.

HUNTED BY THE EARLS OF DARLINGTON, 1787 TO 1832.
KENNELS AT RABY CASTLE, AND NEWTON HOUSE.

“THE RABY.” | “THE BEDALE.”

William Henry, 3rd Earl of Darlington and 1st Duke of Cleveland.
*1832 to 1840.

Mr. Mark Milbank,
Kennels at Thorp Perrow.
1832 to 1856.

Henry, 2nd Duke of Cleveland.
†1842 to 1861.

The Honble. William Ernest Duncombe.
Kennels—West of the Leases from 1859.
1856 to 1867.

The Country lent to the Masters of the Durham and Hurworth Hounds. The Duke giving £500 a year to each pack.
1861 to 1866.

Mr. C. Cradock.
His hounds kennelled at his residence, Hartforth Hall.

Mr. Scarth (the Agent at Raby Castle for many years).
Mr. H. Surtees, of Redworth Hall.
Hunted the country north of Raby Castle, where Lord Zetland's now spend some time cub hunting.

1866 to 1876.

The Earl of Zetland.
1876 to 1908.

* His hounds were sold at York in May, 1840, by Messrs. Tattersall, and fetched £262.
† His hounds were sold by Messrs. Tattersall, at Hyde Park Corner, on 22nd April, 1861. The Honble. Mark Rolle, Master of the “Stevenstone,” giving 100 guineas for five couples, and three other lots of five couples reached 80 guineas each.

Mr. John B. Booth.
1867 to 1878.

Major H. F. Dent.
1878 to 1884.

Mr. George W. Elliot, M.P.
Kennels—Low Street, Leeming Bar.
1884 to 1888.

Captain W. P. Wilson-Todd.
1888 to 1896.

Major H. F. Dent, 2nd Mastership.
1896 to 1898.

The Duke of Leeds.
1898 to 1904.

Mr. John J. Moubray.
1904.



CHAPTER II.

1832—1856.

MARK MILBANK.

“If ever you keep hounds, always give orders, and never ask opinions.”—*Surtees*.

In 1832, William Henry, Lord Darlington, who had been created First Marquess of Cleveland in 1827, and elevated to the Dukedom thereof in 1833, ceased on account of ill health to hunt the southern portion of his huge “Raby” country. On return from hunting he always personally saw his hounds fed, and there can be little doubt that superintending this most important operation, very often in his wet clothes, brought on rheumatism and other ailments.

The future state of the “Raby” country is best explained in the form of a “pedigree.”

From this it will be seen that Lord Darlington’s son-in-law, Mr. Mark Milbank, of Thorp Perrow, near Bedale, undertook the first Mastership of what was constituted the Bedale Hunt. Although from an oral account given by an old resident in Snape, called Tom Exelby (aged 87 in 1902), his

grandfather, who was “a miraculous youth,” had hunted with a pack of hounds called the “Bedale.” They were trencher fed and kept in the neighbourhood of Well. This “miraculous youth” must have been whipper-in or something of the kind, as on hunting days he collected hounds by pulling the ears of the few which he kept. This made them howl, and so attracted the others, which were kept in neighbouring farms and houses, to the place of meeting.

Mr. Milbank had in his younger days kept a pack of harriers, to which probably the following poem refers:—

BEDALE, 20TH DECEMBER, 1809.

'Twas at nine in the morn, and the weather was fair
When we set out from Bedale, in search of a hare.
There was Charley the Huntsman, and young Mr.

Mark,*

Dick Peirse and John Monson, not forgetting George
Clark;

A large field of farmers all eager to ride,
Each swearing to each as they rode side by side,
How the other would dash over mountains and dales
Leaving numbers behind them “hung”† at hedges
and rails.

That the thing of all others they most wished to see
Jump up 'mid the hounds an old Reynard would be.
That hunting the hare was but moderate fun,
And they very much wished for a capital run.
Their wish was soon granted, for 'ere it was late,
The hounds went away at a terrible rate.

* Who took the Bedale in 1832. At this date, 14 years old.

† What we now call “hung up” i.e. “pounded.”

Such a time they kept at it, and such was the speed
 They quickly discovered a fox, t'was indeed :
 Who gallantly leaving the woods of Thorp Perrow, ‡
 To Watlass he sped, with the speed of an arrow,
 So close were the hounds that he could not delay,
 But over Snape Park he directed his way.
 Where finding the pack still hard at his brush
 He lept the park wall with a terrible "rush."
 And crossing the road towards Masham proceeded;
 But disliking the country, or perhaps he was headed.
 Turning short to the left came to Aldburgh Hall,
 Thence through Binsoe and Peter Wood arrived at
 Hackfall.

Where either disdaining the earths that were open,
 Or feeling his strength unimpaired and unbroken,
 He still rattled on, 'til to Tanfield he came,
 Tho' dirty and draggled, yet his pace was the same

* * * *

Here after a chase of two hours and more
 The hounds they were stopped—what a terrible bore.

From a M.S. H. DE LA POER BERESFORD,
1838.

and no doubt influenced by Lord Darlington,
 he kindly stepped into his father-in-law's
 "southern hunting shoes."*

The country provided some subscription
 towards the expenses, but what sum I am
 unable to ascertain.

He commenced the formation of his pack
 of hounds by purchasing about twenty
 couples from Scotland, was given some of
 the "Raby" hounds, getting in addition
 other drafts. There were some kennels at

‡ Hounds changed from a hare to a fox, somewhere between
 Firby and Thorp Perrow. No one knew exactly where.

* Mr. Milbank married in 1817, Lady Augusta, second daughter
 of William Henry, 1st Duke of Cleveland.

Thorp Perrow, and there his pack was housed.

Mr. Milbank kept a most accurate and interesting hunting diary, from which, thanks to the courtesy of his grandson, Sir Powlett Milbank, Bart., I am able most fully to quote. In addition to the diary, he kept a yearly record of every covert drawn and whether a fox was found there or not, also a list of the coverts from which foxes were killed, a method which he no doubt copied from Lord Darlington, who had done the same. At this date there were many more excellent whin coverts in the country than there are at the present time ; in all of which a fox was almost invariably to be found at all periods of the year.

Mr. Milbank hunted hounds himself, and had George Barwick as his kennel huntsman and first whipper-in, and Joe Mason as his second. The former had been with Mr. Hanbury until he gave up keeping hounds, and the latter had been Mr. Milbank's second horseman before he took the hounds.

Neither the Master or his servants had more than one horse out (with very rare exceptions), although a great deal of country used to be covered in a day : but one notices on reading through the record of twenty-four seasons, that if there was a very high wind, if it was very stormy or squally, or there appeared to be no scent, hounds were taken home.

I have not been able to trace any Hound lists, but judging from the number taken

out, during cub-hunting, I should say the pack consisted of about fifty couples.

During the first ten years of his Mastership, Mr. Milbank generally hunted four days a week after the end of November ; and usually killed a May fox. In the months of April and May, he chiefly worked the west and south-west portions of the country.

During his twenty-four years he averaged seventy-six days' hunting, and killed twenty-one and a half brace of foxes a season. The best being that of 1834-5—one hundred days' hunting, thirty-six and a half brace of foxes ; the last the worst—fifty-six days' hunting, eight and a half brace.

In order to record the sport shown by the Bedale Hounds during the first half of last century, I propose to set down the accounts of one or two good runs in each season. The selection has been difficult, there are many I should like to include, but space forbids.

The first advertised meet of the " Bedale Foxhounds " was held at Hackforth, on the 22nd October, 1832, and Colonel Van Straubenzee in his book, " Recollections of Sportsmen and Sport in days of yore," thus describes the day's proceedings:—

" The Hornby Castle coverts were drawn and plenty of foxes were found. So numerous were they that the sport was not great, but if Hornby had been drawn once a week for the season, I feel sure it would not have been blank. Indeed so anxious is the noble owner to have foxes, and see the hounds at

Hornby, that he does not much like having them killed. ''

1832—33. 14th November. Met at Hutton Bonville, found in Colonel Arden's Plantations near Entercommon, and broke away to the north for a few fields, then turned very short back to the left and ran direct to Streatlam Whin, leaving the covert on the east to Langton Plantations, round Thrintoft Whin and back to Mr. Masterman's earths; turning from here right handed nearly to Yafforth, crossed the Wiske, and leaving Castle Hills on the right ran up to the Northallerton and Darlington road, over this, and ran into the fox close to Brompton. A magnificent run of one hour and three-quarters. The first hour, up wind, at a most severe pace.

Seventeen couples of old, three couples of young hounds.

25th February. Met at Wood End. Found in Mr. Crompton's Brick Kiln Plantation, away at once, and ran direct by Busby Stoop to Carlton Rush, then on towards Topcliffe Parks, bore left-handed towards Sowerby, then right-handed to Sir Thomas Frankland's (Thirkleby Park) Lodge gates, and due south nearly to Raskelf, turned short back from here, and ran into the fox about twenty yards on the south side of Sessay Wood. A most beautiful run of two hours ten minutes. Fully eleven miles from point to point. Seventeen couples of old hounds.

4th May. Met at Garriston. Found in Lloyd's Whin (a covert somewhere due west

of Throstle Gill), and after a very quick forty minutes, killed in Throstle Gill. Fifteen couples of old hounds, six couples of young ones. Mr. Milbank notes that this was the hottest and yet best scenting day he had ever been hunting on.

1833—4. On the 9th November, Mr. Milbank notes: "I divided the pack, having out this day a bitch pack of sixteen couples of old and three couples of young hounds, which pleased me very much, there was some capital hunting, and they overcame great difficulties."

11th November. Met at Catterick Lime Kilns. Having run one fox to ground from Gravel Pit Whin, at Hornby—went back there and found again a brace of foxes. Away with one of them towards Tunstall Whin, and on to Scotton Whin, leaving this on the north, direct to Newfound--England, where being headed the fox came back to Scotton Whin; then straight to Patrick Brompton, through the gardens of the Hall, towards Crakehall, crossed the Beck by Crakehall Mill and leaving Burrill on the right ran to Watlass Whin. From here across to Warrener's Bottom, when a fresh fox jumping up within view of hounds, they were stopped. Two hours and ten minutes of a most excellent hunt.

Fifteen couples of old and four couples of young dog hounds.

3rd February. Met at the Salutation Inn. Found in Langthorne Plantation, and

ran past Hornby Castle, to the Kennel Whin, from there direct to Hipswell Woods, where hounds divided ; but the main body keeping on to the run fox went through Iron Banks, across the Richmond Road to Hudswell Scar, turning back from here down the valley, hounds ran into him at Richmond Bridge.

One hour and twenty minutes. Nineteen couples of hounds.

On the 10th March, a rather curious fox was found in Holme Whin and killed at Baldersby village. Both hind legs were white from the pad to the hock.

Mr. Lane-Fox of Bramham Park was hunting with the Bedale that day, and the two pads were given to him—to have set up as handles for whips.

A May fox was killed—from Downholme Parks.

1834—35. 14th November. Met at Pepper Hall. Found the second fox at Streatlam Whin, and ran to Little Danby, turning right-handed from here, he ran past Thrintoft Whin and village nearly up to Ainderby, Steeple ; turned to the right, crossing the river Swale on the north side of Morton Bridge, up to Scruton ; through Aiskew Moor Whin, over the road near Leeming Mill and running up the banks of the Beck, was killed in the water near Bedale Mill.

One hour and twenty minutes. Eighteen couples of dog hounds.

The fox was retrieved from the water by a man wading into the Beck.

11th February. Met at Scorton. After finding a fox at Moulton Whin, which ran by Scorton, and was marked to ground at Atlay Hill, a second fox was found at Uckerby Whin, which ran past the village of Moulton up to the North Road, being headed here he turned down towards Scorton for about two miles, but making his point, turned to the right and re-crossing the North Road headed straight past Skeeby to Easby, crossed the Swale here into Colburn Banks, turned down the river again to Brompton, where the river was again crossed; over the North Road to Moulton Whin, and marked him into a hollow tree, close to Uckerby Whin. Axes were procured, the tree was split open, and the fox jumped from a height of about twenty feet into the middle of the hounds.

Mr. Milbank remarks "a most splendid run, many horses quite beat. From Uckerby to Easby one hour without a check; from Colburn Banks to the hollow tree, fifty-three minutes of beautiful hunting."

It is recorded that twice before a fox had been unaccountably lost near here, without the hiding place being discovered. On the 9th November, 1906, a somewhat similar incident took place, although hounds did not run their fox as far. Found at Uckerby Whin, ran sharp down to Uckerby village, then up to Gatherley Castle, but could not get forward over the North Road. On casting back, his line was hit towards Scorton, and he was marked into a hollow tree close

to Hunger Riggs Farm. The first whipper-in (P. Farrelly) was sent up to reconnoitre, and when asked by the huntsman at the foot of the tree whether he could see anything, was nearly knocked off his perch by the fox—a bob-tailed one—jumping out of the tree in his face. This fox, also, was killed.

Foxes are often lost in a way which it seems impossible to explain. But the following may provide an answer to the question in some cases.

A fox found at Camp Hill had been hunted round Horse Close Wood by Low Park Wood and Well, towards Nosterfield; when hounds suddenly threw up their heads and nothing more could be done. Some men with greyhounds had been coursing, and their dogs had killed the fox, which they hid. Some schoolboys who had seen the kill came and told. The fox was given up—and hounds had their blood.

23rd March. Met at Camp Hill.

Found in Norton Conyers Whin, crossed the river Yore; ran by Sleningford, up to Mr. Staveley's Whin, on to Kirkby Malzeard, and then direct over the moors nearly to Pateley Bridge, turning right handed from here this stout fox came northwards into Druids' Wood; took another turn on to the Moor, then through Hutt Gill into Hackfall, where hounds were stopped. Three hours and ten minutes. It is not surprising to hear that many horses were left out all night, and that one or two "are said to be

dead.” Mr. Milbank and his servants rode one horse each, and he remarks that his horse “Fusilier” carried him well, right up to the end.

3rd April. Met at Sawley Hall. Found in Calf Hall Wood, ran past the Hall in the direction of Spa Gill, but being headed near Sawley village turned south nearly to Brimham Rocks, then bore left-handed by Burnt Yates village straight to Ripley Park; crossed the Park and ran down to the River Nidd, turned westward from this point and went nearly three miles parallel to the river, bearing up to Burnt Yates village; being headed here he turned down the river again, and after going about four miles further west hounds ran into this gallant fox at the south end of Braisty Wood.* Hunted for two hours and fifty minutes, and covered about twenty-three miles.

4th May. Killed a fox from Hudswell.

1835—36. On the 30th October, the 2nd whipper-in (Joe Mason) was sent on a quaint errand.

On the way home from hunting, the Union Coach was standing on the Leeming Lane, near Leeming Bridge, and the passengers were crying out “Stop thief.” Joe was sent to inquire what the disturbance was, and give assistance if necessary.

It was found that a prisoner, who had been taken up for robbing Colonel Coore’s pigeon-

* Braisty Wood is on the north side of Summer Bridge.

cote had escaped from the roof of the coach. Joe set off in pursuit, and after going somewhat over a mile overtook and collared the man, who turned on him with the words "Dam thy red coat."

On the 5th December, when drawing Nomans Moor, the hounds were joined by a pack of harriers, concerning which incident Mr. Milbank writes:—

"Was much annoyed by a pack of harriers joining us while running in covert, this was the more vexatious as Mr. Chaytor the owner of the harriers must, or ought to have known, that we were to be on Nomans Moor."

On the 16th December, we met at Hauxwell Hall. Found in the Park at Burton Constable, away past the Hall to Beggarmire Wood, turned short back from here outside the Park, across to Forty Acres; through the Wood and northwards, leaving Barden village on the right to the Halfpenny House and Tunstall road; turned eastwards and keeping parallel to the road ran direct to Thornhills Whin. Through this without a check down to Gravel Pit Whin, by Hornby Castle, across the Park to Goskins, over the Leeming Lane down to Killerby; being headed here, he turned up the Swale banks past Oran, and was killed at the Castle Hills, after a magnificent run of two hours and twenty minutes.

4th March. Met at Catterick Bridge. Found in Tunstall Whin, ran down to Scotton village, past Scotton Whin, then turned

right-handed into the West Wood, at Hips-well, ran up Throstle Gill into the east end of Hudswell Banks ; crossed the river Swale under the Priory garden, up the hill above Richmond, past the east end of the racecourse, down the hill towards Aske, and hounds ran into their fox one hundred yards before he reached the Aske Plantations, after a brilliant run of one hour seven minutes.

1836—37. 13th December. Met at Scorton. After some hunting about Pepper Arden and killing a fox at Streatlam Whin, went away at once with a second from the Whin direct to Masterman's Plantations, down to Yafforth village, on towards Warlaby, crossed the Wiske at Warlaby Bridge, then towards Northallerton, through Mr. Dent's Plantations, into Cotcliffe Woods in the Hurworth country ; where luckily, hounds were stopped.

A splendid run of one hour and twenty minutes, being twelve miles from Streatlam to Cotcliffe as the crow flies.

Mr. Milbank and his servants only had one horse each for this hard day.

14th April. Met at Grewelthorpe.

Found in Spring Wood (near Sleningford), ran down to North Stainley, then turning to the right came across into Hollin Head Wood, through it past Toad's Hole, towards Galphray ; turned short to the left over the head of Laver Banks, down to the west side of Studley Park wall, ran down the wall side to Fountains Abbey, crossed the Pleasure grounds, over How Hill direct to Studley

Hall ; ran through the gardens there, then turned to the right into Spa Gill where the fox got to ground after a magnificent hunt of two hours and ten minutes ; the last hour of which the pace was very severe.

2nd May. Killed a fox from Halfpenny House.

1837—38. To commence an account of this season, I cannot, I think, do better than give the poem written by the Reverend John Monson, who was Rector of Bedale from 1797 to 1843. He was an excellent sportsman and very hard rider, and Lord Darlington in one of his hunting diaries writes : “ I cannot omit to mention that the Reverend John Monson shone as conspicuously this day on his grey mare as in the pulpit, and was alone with hounds over Ainderby Mires, when they killed at Thornhills Willo-bed.”

The poem mentions most of those who at the time were regular followers with the Bedale Hounds.

Here's to the old ones of fox-hunting fame—
Cleveland, Ralph Lambton, and Harewood.
Here's to the young ones that after them came
Who will not say that they are good.

Here's to the Master¹ well skilled in the art
To kill an old fox in all weather.
Here's to the riders all ready to start,
Brilliant in boots and in leathers.

Here's to the hounds all vigour and bone,
In condition excelling all others.

1 Mr. Mark Milbank.

Here's to old Barwick² who stands quite alone
In cheering them on through the coverts.

Here's to the sportsmen, I give you each name,
Their facts and their fortunes in detail ;
North Riding heroes all eager for fame
To be reaped in the country of Bedale.

On Borderer³ mounted see Milbank ride,
Three hundred won't buy such a horse, sir ;
Limbs with no check to their freedom of stride ;
Wind, without whistle or cough, sir.

Tally-ho ! ' Toot-a-Toot⁴' he is gone said the squire,
Let any one catch them who can, sir ;
Who rides with my hounds a good horse will require,
And himself, he must be a good man, sir.

Here's to the Duke⁵ if he leads not, still Leeds
(To borrow a joke from his Grace, sir) ;
A nobleman true, both in words and in deeds,
And the firmest support of the chase, sir.

Here's to the Graham,⁶ who does not disdain
In a north country province to ride, sir ;
Forgetting that once through the Leicestershire plain
Scarce a rival could live by his side, sir.

Here's to the Colonel,⁷ if warm be his name
Both that and his heart go together ;
In pleasant discourse while we ride down the lane,
Let us be in no hurry to sever.

2 George Barwick, First Whipper-in and Kennel Huntsman.

3 Mr. Milbank first rode this horse in 1835.

4 Mr. Milbank used a very sharp note on his horn for " gone away."

5 The 6th Duke of Leeds was not a very hard rider.

6 Sir Bellingham Graham, Bart., Master of the Pytchley 1820-21, of the Quorn 1821-23.

7 Colonel Pepper Arden, of Pepper Hall.

Here's to friend George,⁸ the beau of Camp Hill,
 A good one if fast be the chase, sir ;
 To pass him I tell you requires as much skill
 As Fieschi,⁹ when he won the race, sir.

Here's to the Baron of Sawley,¹⁰ so sly,
 Here's to the horse that is black, sir—
 Forgetting that always a crow cannot fly,
 He fell o'er a fence on his back, sir.

Here's to Straubenzee¹² the dashing and bold,
 Taking all in his stroke like a man, sir ;
 And the pith of the story remains to be told,
 You can't shake him off from the "Van," sir.

Here's to the Major,¹³ the gallant and true,
 In riding, to no one he'll yield, sir ;
 See, he brings by his side a young damsel¹⁴ in view
 To beat half the men in the field, sir.

Here's to the Dundas's¹⁵ both Thomas and John,
 They come but to make us remember
 How short is their stay, for to London they're gone
 'Ere the end of the month of November.

Here's to the young ones, whose race scarce begun,
 Young Mark, and the ensign,¹⁶ his brother ;
 They show of a stock, most goodly they come
 As they tread in the steps of their father.

8 Mr George Sergeantson, who was not very particular as to his "turn out."

9 A horse belonging to Mr. Wormald, of Sawley Hall.

10 Mr. Wormald, and a horse he rode called "The Crow."

12 Mr. Van H. Straubenzee, of Spennithorne.

13 Major Healey lived at Middleton-Tyas.

14 Miss Milbank.

15 Sons of the 1st Lord Zetland, Members of Parliament for Richmond and York.

16 Mr. Mark Milbank (Scots Greys), Mr. Frederick Milbank (79th Highlanders, afterwards Sir F. Milbank, Bart.), sons of the Master.

The gallant, the ardent, of promise so fair,
The Beresford¹⁷ Brothers they bring ;
A word from my pen must give them their share
Of the honours and glories I sing.

Many good ones remain, Hodgson,¹⁸ Crompton and
Tower,
Fox,¹⁹ Ward, and the young one from Norton ;
But to mention them all, it is not in my power,
So surely it cannot be thought on.

Here's a bumper to Milbank, the source of our sport,
A bumper to him and his hounds, sir ;
Brimful it shall be of the finest old port,
Where health and good humour abound, sir.

The following verse was added by another pen, to perpetuate the memory of one of Mr. Milbank's keen supporters.

“ And here's to the squire of Thirsk, Jack Bell,
Who supports both the chase and the turf, sir ;
He will not unless he likes it, go well,
Tho' the hounds may run ever so fast, sir.”

The following story about Mr. Bell probably provided the reason for the last two lines of this verse. One day he was riding a horse that rather rushed at its fences, and coming to a brook, he dismounted. When asked why he had done so, he replied “ Thank God in this land of liberty, I need not ride over a brook unless I like it.”

17 Sir John Beresford, Bart., and his son The Rev. John George, Rector of Bedale, 1861-99.

18 John Hodgson of Breckamore, Joshua S. Crompton of Azerley Chase, Colonel Tower lived at Hutton Bonville, Master of the South Durham Hounds, 1844-52.

19 Sackville Lane-Fox, third son of James Lane-Fox, of Bramham, married a daughter of the 6th Duke of Leeds.

1837—38. This was not a very good season, and there is no run of any special merit to mention. Hounds were stopped by frost for nine successive weeks, from 5th January to the first week in March. A May fox was killed on the 7th of the month, from Swinton.

1838—39. 21st November. Met at Blows Hall. Found in the new Whin at Norton Conyers, ran a ring by the old Whin back to the new Whin, then crossed the river Yore opposite to Plaister Pits covert, direct to Breckamore, then bore right-handed through Spring Wood and Thieves Gill to Azerley; bore left-handed from here into Laver banks, up them into Winksley banks, passed Galphay village, and turning right-handed ran the fox to ground in Hackfall after a beautiful hunt of two hours.

10th December. Met at Kiplin. Found in Streatlam Whin, and ran south by Danby Hill to Masterman's Plantations, across the Wiske, direct to Northallerton without a check. Here the fox was a good deal headed, and turning north, hounds hunted up to Deighton, and into Deighton Plantations. He had probably waited here, as from this point the pace increased and they ran very fast up to Hornby Grange; from here to the east end of Beverley Wood, and on to Girsby Wood, where hounds pulled their fox down after a brilliant run of two hours. The distance being five miles from Streatlam to Northallerton, twelve from Northallerton to Girsby.

1839—40. 15th January. Met at York Gate. After a nice gallop in the morning from Baldersby Whin, by Ainderby Quernhow and Pickhill, ran to ground in the Swale banks by Maunby ferry. Found a fox in the Lady's Gorse at Norton Conyers which ran down the river, then turned across the Park by the Wath Lodge direct to Hutton Moor Whin at a great pace, through the Whin across the Leeming Lane, down to Rainton and on to Azenby, crossed the river Swale just below Topcliffe, and after making a ring round that village, went over Carlton Moor, skirting the whin covert, through Carlton Rush, leaving Busby Stoop on the left, direct to Breckenborough; where hounds ran gallantly into him, in the middle of the Park, after a fine run of two and a quarter hours.

1st April. Met at Bellerby.

Found at Newfound-England, and ran west over Barden and Hauxwell Moors, to the Gill due north of Thornhill's Whin; turned at the Scotton Road to the south, and went nearly down to Hunton Mill, headed short back to the left from here, and leaving Allertorp (Arrathorne?) and Sandholes Whin on the right, went due north over Tunstall Moor to Colburn village, down to, and across the Swale; and running from scent to view killed the fox on the north-west side of Brompton-on-Swale, after a magnificent run of one and three-quarter hours. Mr. Milbank was not out hunting this day. He remarks "My loss was therefore very great."

Although the following rules were not

written by Mr. Milbank, for the edification of *his* field, they are so well worth reproducing that, as chronologically they fit in at this period, I include them.

A copy of them was found by me in the Orderly Room of the 2nd West York Yeomanry Cavalry, when I was Adjutant of that Regiment.

They were in the midst of a lot of Horse Guards and War Office letters and regulations, and I am bound to confess that the rules for the "chase" interested me more than those for "war."

They were, it is believed, circulated amongst the field of the "Four Burrow" country by Mr. W. Daubuz, who was Master of these hounds between 1840 and 1854.

From the number of seventeen I extract a few, which may well be borne in mind by all who hunt. Although some years old, I think the rules retain their more than pristine virtue.

SOME RULES OF ADVICE, AS CONCERNS HUNTING.

—:—

To all Western sporters, greeting :

For this Cornwall is a ticklish hunting ground.

3. To all who ride to meet with the hounds. Take especial care not to ride over them : take care of their precious feet. Do not talk to the Huntsman or Whipper.
6. Lords, Gentlemen, and Yeomen. — When the hounds are drawing a covert keep together in one place : do not talk, do not laugh, above all things, Aristocrats, Democrats, Whigs, Radicals,

Tories, for heaven's sake do not whistle; that whistling creates bitter confusion.
When you hear a hound challenge, do not sing out "huic huic," which is your custom. If you think the Huntsman does not hear the challenge, go quietly and quickly to him, and tell him, then allow him to cheer the challenger, do not add your voices.

7. The fox has broken covert, you see him. Gentlemen, Gentlemen, do not roar out "tally-ho," do not screech horribly. If you do he will turn back, even under your horses' feet in spite of the sad and disappointed look on your handsome or ugly faces. Do not crack your infernal whips. Be silent.
9. If the chase runs the road—Gentlemen, allow the Huntsman to take the lead. You must be particularly careful in the roads and lanes; they are the devil, and spoil many a good chase.
11. Gentlemen, when the Huntsman is making a cast, sit quietly and sedately on your horses, do not ride after him
12. Hounds have mended the fault, they are going again, but the scent is not so good. Gentlemen, give them room.

The scent mends, dead beat the fox gains a small covert. Now, Gentlemen, be not rash, do not holloa—do not meet him in ride or path. I once unwittingly saved the life of a fox when Mr. Bulteel's hounds were in the very act of catching him.

He ran under my horse, in another moment hounds would have had him. I roared most lustily. The hounds stopped one moment, to ask me what the devil I made such a noise about, that half minute's check saved the fox's life. (*Author's note.* If in any doubt whatever, "Never holloa.")

13. Who-whoop. 'Triumph' has him. Tear him and eat him, my beauties. Yet even in this last act, so

44 THE BEDALE HOUNDS, 1832-1908

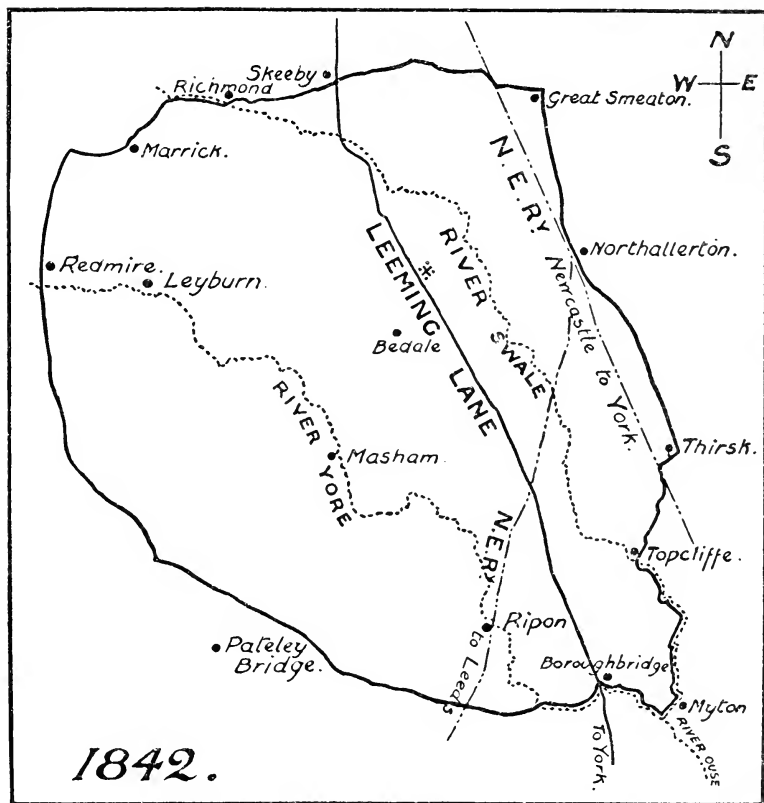
very delightful after a good run to bloodthirsty hounds, and screaming men; take care—keep your panting steeds away from the “*melée*,” or they will cripple their fellow steeds (let alone the brush and pad seizers), and kick the hounds, and may-be occasion more deaths than one.

17. Go out in the morning with a sunny countenance. Whilst out, keep your temper—rather a difficult matter sometimes. Never quit until the hounds do. Go home; dine, enjoy your life: do not get drunk, then you will be as fresh as roses next morning, and not as seedy as old cucumbers.

1840—41. During this and the three following seasons, Mr. Milbank hunted a portion of the Raby Country north of the Swale, and he records in his diary drawing the following coverts.

Allan's Whin, Gilling Woods, Halnaby Woods, Hartforth Woods, Middleton Lodge coverts, Middleton-Tyas coverts, Stapleton Whin and Sedbury Woods. It was at the end of the season 1839—40, that the 1st Duke of Cleveland gave up, and sold his hounds, and it is probable that Henry, the 2nd Duke, had not got his hunting arrangements into full working order before the beginning of the season 1844—5.

17th February. Met at York Gate. Found at Baldersby Whin, and ran at a great pace to Norton Conyers, where there was a serious check, as the hounds were unable to get over the Park wall; however, the line was hit off on the west side of the Park, and they ran round Hutton Conyers to Sharow, past Copt Hewick to Martin-le-Moor; from there past



✱ The Kennels.

the Harrier Kennels, nearly to Boroughbridge, and following the banks of the Yore for about a mile, killed their fox in the river. He unfortunately sank, and hounds lost their well-earned reward. One and three quarter hours. The points being three and a half miles from Baldersby to Norton Conyers, eight miles from there to Boroughbridge.

2nd April. Met at Thornborough Bar. Found in Horse Close Wood, and ran over Thornbrough Moor direct to Norton Conyers ; through the old Whin, across the Park up to Hutton Conyers, turned northwards from here by Melmerby Wood, across the Leeming Lane nearly to Rainton ; bore right-handed from here to near Dishforth, then again to the left ; and owing to some very dry fallows, hounds were run out of scent close to Leckby Carr. Two and a half hours.

1841—42. 14th April. Met at Hartforth. Found in the Wood, and after running over Aske Moor to Whitley Scar, up to Applegarth, to Clinty Scar, by Helwith pointing for Marrick, turned over the Moor to the Obelisk in Marske Park. From here hounds crossed the river Swale, into Downholme Scar, but Mr. Milbank stopped them, as they had been hunting for three hours and he was short of a good many hounds, which, however, he got together before his return to kennel.

1842—43. 24th October. On this date hounds killed two and a half brace of foxes. One brace from Solberg, after short scurries ;

one brace from Scruton, and the fifth from near Kirkby Fleetham, the latter being pulled down near Morton Bridge, having crossed the Swale, and gone up to Thrintoft village.

Mr. Milbank remarks "I never in my experience ever remember killing five foxes in one day before; which would certainly be too many in most parts of the country, but we left plenty, both at Solberg and Scruton.

11th November. Met at Middleton-Tyas. Found in the Plantations there, and running by the Quarry "earths," went direct to Uckerby Whin, where hounds killed their fox. Before they had time to break it up, away with another on the north east side, by North Cowton village, over the railway to the end of Beverley Wood; took a big turn up the river Tees towards Neasham, turned back and killed the fox near Entercommon, after a splendid run of one and a half hours.

14th December. Met at Butcher Bar. Found in Chaplin's Whin, across to Low Park Wood, and leaving it on the left turned up to Holly Hill, and ran up Snape Park wall (The Belts) to Binsoe Lane. Then past Binsoe village down to Aldburgh; crossed the river Yore, and ran straight on to the north end of Nutwith Common, bore back towards Hackfall, then again on to Nutwith Common, into Hutt's Gill, across it on to the moors again, and turning northwards, hounds had to be stopped as it was nearly dark. A very fast run, and a ten mile point.

On the 17th December at the Annual Hunt Dinner, held at the Black Swan, Bedale, at which forty members were present, an oil painting of the "Bedale Hunt" was presented to Mr. Milbank, subscribed for by members of the Hunt and other gentlemen. The presentation being made by the Duke of Leeds.

The picture includes about one hundred portraits, and is now in the possession of his grandson, Sir P. Milbank, Bart., at Norton Manor, Radnorshire. The painting of the same came about in rather an odd way, and is worth mention.

Mr. Orde, of Nunnykirk, near Morpeth, who was owner of the celebrated race-horse 'Beeswing,' wished to have a picture painted of the mare*; and sent an artist called Anson A. Martin up to Middleham (where the mare was in training), to execute the work. A member of the Hunt, hearing how well he had succeeded, commissioned him to paint a picture of himself, with a favourite pony and two setters.

While sitting for this, conversation turned upon Sir Francis Grant's painting of the "Meet at Melton," and Mr. Martin expressed his great wish to paint one of the same description. A price was agreed upon, and it was decided to see whether the object could be carried out.

So ready was Mr. Milbank's "field" to

* Beeswing, by Dr. Syntax, foaled 1833. Finished her racing career by winning the Doncaster Cup, 1842.

mark their high appreciation of the sport he had shewn, and how great was his popularity, that within ten days the necessary sum of money was easily collected, and the order for the picture was given.

Quaintly enough, as one brother set his hand to perpetuate the present and recall the past—in oils; another of the family, Jonathan—who must have been somewhat crazy—set his, by fire, to do the reverse. He was much annoyed with the organ in York Minster, as he fancied it “buzzed” at him. So, on February 2nd, 1827, he secreted himself in the Minster, and making three piles of books, one in the Throne, one in the Organ loft, and one in the Pulpit, set fire to them and escaped through the window of the North Transept. The damage was considerable, the Organ stalls and the roof of the Choir being destroyed. Towards the cost of restoration, which was completed in 1832, £65,000 was raised by subscription, and £5,000 worth of Teak wood was granted from the Royal Dockyards.

All those who figure in the picture have now joined the “great majority,” and I believe the last survivors were Sir Frederick Milbank, of Thorp Perrow, who died in 1898, and the Rev. John Beresford, Rector of Bedale, who died in 1899. Mr. Milbank is riding a horse called “Bribery,” which he bought from Mr. Morley, of Dishforth. He rode it for many seasons without it giving him a single fall. The hounds immediately

around him are 'Boaster,' 'Brasher,' 'Caroline,' 'Margery,' 'Restless,' and 'Sailor.'

1843—44. On the 2nd December, Mr. Milbank writes in his diary, "On this day my poor huntsman, George Barwick, destroyed himself by drowning in the Fish Pond at Thorp Perrow. He had been remarked by his family to be in low spirits for some time, and strange to say, laboured under the delusion that *all* the bitches in the Kennel were in whelp. This with other strange fancies so preyed upon his mind, that in a temporary fit of insanity he drowned himself. The shock to myself was very great, as it was my unfortunate lot to find the poor fellow in the pond. By this sad act I have lost an honest, upright and truly praiseworthy servant, and the gentlemen of the country an able and intelligent huntsman."

For the remainder of this season Mr. Milbank hunted hounds himself.

On the 1st January there was rather an exciting and amusing finish to a hunt from Sir E. Dodsworth's New Whin at Watlass. Having run by Watlass Church, Clifton Castle, and back to Burrill; the fox went into the pleasure grounds at Thorp Perrow, and got onto a wall close to the dairy; the roof of which he crossed, went over the office, and on to the top of the kitchen, and jumped from here, a distance of nearly sixty feet, to the ground. Hounds were quickly taken round, and the fox was killed in the stable yard.

Another rather curious incident happened on the 31st January. A fox, found in a willow-bed opposite Maunby, jumped into the river Swale, with two hounds, 'Thunderer' and 'Beauty,' close at him. They fought to the middle of the stream, when the fox was killed, and 'Beauty' swam with him in her mouth to the opposite side, and pulled him up on the bank.

13th March. Met at Busby Stoop. Found in Morley's Whin, ran across nearly to Leckby Carr, past Cundall and Humburton, down to Myton pastures, and nearly up to Borough-bridge, where he crossed the river, and hounds went over before they could be stopped. The servants were sent on to get to them, and caught them close to Copgrove. Hounds did not reach kennel till 9 p.m.

1844—45.* 4th December. Met at Watlass. Found near Sir E. Dodsworth's Whin and ran straight to Marriforth Wood, crossed the river at Kilgram Bridge, and direct to High Ellington; after a slight check here, on to Fearby, then westwards to Gollinglith Foot, and turning south ran over Sourmire, by Pott Hall, into Nidderdale; marking the fox to ground at Sype-Land Craggs (which is above Lofthouses) after a splendid run of seventeen miles, and quite ten miles from point to point.

1845—46. 9th January. Met at Pepper Hall. After killing a fox from here, and

* This season, George Cross took Barwick's place as First Whipper-in and Kennel Huntsman.

losing another, found at Hutton Bonville, near Kiplin ; hounds went back to Hutton Bonville. Found again at once, and went a great pace past Deighton Whin, near Hornby Grange, to Smeaton Bridge ; turned from here direct by Birkby towards Pepper Hall, leaving the house to the left over the Bottoms, between North and East Cowton, due north. The fox was headed by the work-people on the new Richmond and Darlington Railway, and had to bend off eastward, but making his point he headed for Dalton Wood, and hounds ran into him one hundred yards from Roccliffe Scar, at the end of Dalton Wood.

A magnificent run of one hour and fifty minutes, nine miles from point to point, and seventeen as hounds ran. Most of the horses were much beaten.

1847. On the 19th January this year, the Master of the York and Ainsty Hounds (Mr. Sam Bateman—the most genial gentleman and an ardent lover of fox-hunting) organized a large dinner, which was held at the De Grey Rooms, York, in honour of Sir Tatton Sykes, Bart., who was then for the second time Master of what are now Lord Middleton's Hounds (his kennels being at Eddlethorpe).

The members of the York and Ainsty were the hosts, and representatives from most of the other Yorkshire packs of hounds were the guests ; among whose names will be found many who belonged to, or were

hunting in the Bedale country at this date.

Mr. R. Gilbert occupied the chair, Mr. S. Bateman and Mr. Billy Read were in the vice-chairs, and the following were present.

*Sir Tatton Sykes	*Sir Charles	Mr. Bower
Baron Osten	Slingsby	(Welham)
The Honble.	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. T. Brown
B. R. Lawley	Mr. Briggs	Mr. Claridge
Mr. Anne	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Darley
The Reverend	Mr. W. Currer	(Aldby)
John Bower	Mr. T. Dent	Mr. Foulis
*Mr. R. Creyke	Mr. Goad	(Heslerton Hall)
(Rawcliffe)	Mr. Hutton	Mr. Garforth
Mr. Digby Cayley	Mr. Harrison	Captain Healey
Mr. C. Darley	Mr. Lee	Dr. Hopper
Lieut. Fort	Mr. Mills	Mr. George Lloyd,
Mr. Horsfall	*Mr. Edward	jun.
*Mr. Hill	Reynard	Mr. T. Norcliffe
(Thornton)	Lieut. Read	(Langton)
Mr. C. Johnstone	Mr. Scrope	Mr. Charles
Mr. Edward Lloyd	Mr. Strickland	Reynard
Mr. Prescott	Mr. E. Clough-	Mr. J. Swann
Mr. Roper	Taylor	(Hutton Hall)
Mr. G. Swann	Lord W. Thynne	Mr. T. Scrope
Mr. E. Smith	The Hon. Capt.	Mr. Toulston
Mr. Telford	Duncombe	Mr. L. Thompson
*Lord Hawke	Sir George Strick-	(Sheriff Hutton)
Hon. A. Bosville	land	
Col. Thompson	Mr. H. S.	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Williamson	Thompson	Mr. York
Captain Yorke	*Mr. H. Willoughby	(Wighill)
	(8th Lord Middleton)	

The names of those marked with an asterisk were, had been, or were destined to be Masters of Hounds. After the health of the Queen and the Royal Family had been drunk, the Chairman gave that of the guest of the

evening, and in doing so said "he would in no wise connect him with hounds or horses, or any other thing. He would give the toast as that of Sir Tatton alone, whose character stood so high as an Englishman, and who ever evinced a high chivalrous sense of honour from which no temptation, however powerful, could induce him to swerve." Sir Tatton thanked his hosts and fellow guests in a short speech for the kind way in which his health had been drunk; concluding his remarks by saying he hoped they all might have as many good days' hunting as he had had, and proposed the health of his hosts, the members of the York and Ainsty Hunt.

Mr. Bateman replied to this, and proposed the health of Lord Harewood and the Harewood Hunt (which at this date represented the Bramham Moor). Lord William Thynne, in the absence of Lord Harewood, replied to this, and proposed the health of Lord Hawke and the Badsworth.

Lord Hawke, in response, said he was delighted to see such a goodly array of jolly sportsmen as were gathered together on this occasion—their presence was an assurance to him that fox-hunting must prosper in Yorkshire.

He proposed the health of the Holderness, coupled with the name of Mr. Edward Reynard (a joint Master). Mr. Reynard, in responding to the toast, said the "Hawk" had roused the "Fox" in his lair, and their

heartly cheers had put him well on his legs. He thanked them for their kind allusion to the Holderness, and spoke at some length on the many advantages which are derived from fox-hunting.

Colonel Thompson proposed the health of Mr. Mark Milbank and the Bedale, to which Mr. Digby Cayley replied.

Mr. York, of Wighill Park, proposed success to the Eddlethorpe Hounds, to which Sir Tatton Sykes briefly responded.

Many other toasts were given, and the account states that the conviviality of the party was kept up to a late hour.

I was lucky enough to pick up in York an account of this dinner, which appeared in the *Yorkshire Gazette* of Saturday, the 23rd January, 1847. It is most elaborately printed on white satin, and was so specially executed for a Miss Wilson.

1846—47. There is no run of any extraordinary merit to chronicle during this season, but the following account of a hunt at the end of April is typical of very many which Mr. Milbank had in the west and north-west portions of the country every year.

29th April. Met at Hipswell Lodge. Found in Iron Banks, ran through the Hipswell Woods to Throstle Gill; across to Huds-well Banks, through them without a pause, to Thorpe Understone. From here the fox dropped down to and crossed the Swale into Whitley Scar; and after running to the west

end of it turned over the hill to Aske Moor ; bearing to the left, he took a ring round Applegarth, and returning to the Swale banks, ran up them nearly to Marske. From here he turned back, went through Applegarth, and hounds marked him to ground in Whitley Scar, after a very beautiful hunt of two and a half hours. At times the running was very severe.

1847—48. Mr. Milbank was unlucky enough to break his left arm when hunting on the 10th November, and did not get out again until the 17th January.

Jealous riding even in these days appears to have been not an unknown factor in the spoiling of sport, as the following note in his diary affirms.

“Lost the fox, as the hounds were most shamefully over-ridden by EVERY gentleman out, my own sons as bad as the rest.”

On the 11th February, hounds had a very hard day all round Hutton Bonville, Danby Wiske, Streatlam and Langton. The huntsman's horse was so done, he had to be taken to Sir Maxwell Wallace's house at Ainderby Steeple, and he dropped dead as soon as he got there. Mr. Frederick Milbank's horse, which he was riding for the first time, fell down dead in the first mile.

1st May. Met at Wensley, and killed a fox from Preston Scar.

1848—49. On the 28th October, a fox from the Crow Pasture Plantation at Thorp Perrow, went through the dining room win-

dow there into a back yard, and again sought refuge in the dairy, where Lady Augusta Milbank was looking at the produce of the cows. Being hustled out of this he went into an outbuilding, to which hounds were brought round and killed him. The hounds (and there were thirty couples out this day) nearly got into the dining room, as they were only a short distance behind their fox at the house.

30th March. Met at East Cowton. Found at Pepper Hall, and leaving Atlay Hill Farm on the right ran down to the Forest Farm, turned from here by Crosshills, to the east end of Uckerby Whin, across to the Moulton and Cowton lane, where was the first check (thirty-one minutes). Hounds hit off the line very soon, and passing by Kirkbank and Middleton-Tyas Church, ran through the plantations at Middleton Lodge on to Barton. Here the footpeople had been running after the fox, which caused a serious and fatal check. Hit the line off at last, and hunted him as far as the top of Hang Bank, where we had to give it up. A fine run of about eleven miles; time, one hour fifteen minutes.

2nd May. Met at Leyburn, and killed a fox from Grey Greet.

1849—50. On the 9th October, by permission of the Duke of Cleveland, Mr. Milbank met at Barningham and had a day's hunting round that place. He ran one fox for three hours, marking it to ground, and ran a nine mile point with another, in an hour and seven minutes.

23rd February. Met at Birkby Bridge. Found at Hutton Bonville Whin, and went past Lovesome Hill due east, turned right-handed and crossing the high road pointed direct to Yafforth village; leaving this on the right, over the Northallerton and Bedale railway past Ainderby Steeple, under Warlabby to the Low Plantations at Sowber Hill. From here the fox bore left-handed through Mr. Rutson's plantations, into the kitchen garden at Newby Wiske, where I made sure we had him; but he climbed up a fruit tree, and got over the garden wall, ran on into a small plantation, where hounds changed onto a fresh fox, and they were stopped at Sion Hill. This was a most splendid run of one hour and a quarter. The hounds were never once cast, and the distance from point to point is upwards of ten miles.

Mr. Milbank did no hunting in May this season, as his first whipper-in (Cross) was leaving him, and he also notes that foxes were rather scarce on the hills.

1850—51. Joe Mason, who had been second whipper-in for eighteen seasons, was put on as first and Kennel Huntsman.

During this season two hounds fell into a cleft of rock near Hudswell, and were without food or water for eighty hours, but were perfectly well again in a day or two.

1851—52. There is nothing of interest to record for this season.

1852—53. 2nd February. Met at Bedale.

Found in Sir C. Dodsworth's Old Whin and passing by Newton-le-Willows, over Noman's Moor, ran to Sandy Hill Plantation (Marriforth). From here the fox dropped the hill under Thornton Steward, crossed the river Yore, just below Jervaulx Abbey, and went direct to Ellingstring Plantation, turning right-handed from this point he ran on the edge of the Moor straight through Witton Fell, down to the river Cover, came away from the river on to the Moor again, and hounds marked him to ground after an excellent run of one hour and a quarter.

1853—54. 21st November. Met at Tunstall. Found in the Whin, and got away on top of a fox which ran to Brough, on to Colburn village, then left-handed back to the village of Scotton; past the left of Scotton Whin, by Fir Tree Plantation to Hauxwell Hall, through the Woods there, by Barden Gill to Halfpenny House; crossed the Leyburn road, and leaving Grey Greet on the south ran over the moors direct to Ellerton Scar (on the south side of the Swale opposite Marrick), where hounds were found laid at the "earth." A most truly fine run of two hours seventeen minutes; for the last half-hour the hounds ran away from the whole field of horses, and were more than a mile ahead when they marked the fox to ground.

30th January. Met at Busby Stoop. Found in Catton Moor Whin, and ran at a great pace to Dalton village, where the fox getting among the cottage gardens, caused some

delay ; hitting him off on the south side of the village, they hunted on well to Pill Moor, over the Moor to Raskelf Common, where we were beat—the railroads bothering us considerably. A good run of nearly nine miles from point to point.

On the 22nd February, Mr. Milbank mentions having found a mangy fox in Hollin Head Wood, near Breckamore.

1854—55. 20th November. Met at Bedale.

Although a large circle, the following was over a nice country, and must have been a good hunt under some difficulties.

Found in Hornby Park Whin, and ran straight to Catterick Lime Kilns, then turning west ran past Tunstall and Scotton whins to Newfound-England. Here a large flock of moor sheep, smelling horribly of grease and tar, caused a somewhat lengthy check. Hitting the line again, hounds ran across the gill—towards Hipswell—and leaving the Woods on the left, turned back to the Brough coverts, and on to Lime Kilns ; where the fox being headed in every direction, he was lost. A good hunting run of two and a quarter hours.

On the 15th December, Mr. Milbank had a hound killed on the railway at Hutton Bonville cutting ; at which place it is marvellous that more hounds are not lost, especially at the present day, when trains run more frequently and there are so many expresses, which at this point are running at a high rate of speed.

Mr. Milbank remarks: "Well it was no worse, as the train ran through the whole pack, when running across the line."

There was a long frost this season, and hounds did not hunt from the 17th January until the 2nd March.

1855—56. 9th January. Met at Bedale.

Found in the Garden Whin at Thorp Perrow, away through the Banks to Watlass Moor, and on by the north of Clifton Castle, down to the river Yore. Crossed the river, straight to Ellington Firth, where a slight check occurred, then pointing north-west ran nearly up to Witton Fell, from which the fox turned back left-handed across the moor, and on account of the deep snow hounds had to be stopped, heading for Agra Plantation.

25th February. Met at Hutton Bonville. Found in the Whin, ran across to the Deighton coverts, then turned north by Appleton Wiske, right-handed to Rounton; from this place the fox headed straight for the hills, and hounds ran into him at Scarth Nick Farm, about three-quarters of a mile from the north end of Arncliffe Wood. One hour and a half from Deighton, a most beautiful run.

At the end of this season, to the great regret of the whole country, Mr. Milbank gave up the hounds, having been Master for twenty-four years, during which he had formed as a separate "Hunt" the present Bedale country; had got plenty of good whin coverts made, which were all well stocked with foxes, and as the foregoing accounts of runs indicate,

had shown some capital sport, and killed an average number of foxes.

Mr. Milbank had only four Hunt servants during his Mastership: Barwick, Cross, Joe Mason, and a second whipper-in—Tom. Somewhat of a change from the present day, when a hunt servant is “Here to-day and gone to-morrow.” A smattering of education and railways have played the deuce even in this line of life. He sold thirty couples of his older hounds to Lord Stamford, then Master of the Quorn, for £600.

It was said that Mr. Milbank never gave his successor the option of purchasing his hounds; but, as his third son, Henry John, had married Lady Margaret Grey, Lord Stamford’s sister; I think probably, as the hounds were well bred and of a rare working sort, Lord Stamford had taken an early opportunity of getting the “refusal” of them.

CHAPTER III.

1856—1867

THE HONOURABLE W. ERNEST DUNCOMBE.

“Railways and fox-hunting, make most people punctual.”—*Surtees*.

A successor to Mr. Milbank was found in Mr. Duncombe, who took up his residence at The Leases.

He started the formation of a new pack by buying the Forfarshire Hounds from Lord Dalhousie, a few from Mr. Milbank, and also got a good draft when Captain Percy Williams sold his Rufford Hounds. As there were no kennels belonging to the Hunt, Mr. Milbank lent him those at Thorp Perrow for two seasons. In 1858 the building of kennels was commenced, the site chosen being on the east side of the Low Street near the field road, which now leads into Scruton village. It was found that the subsoil was unsuitable so the idea was abandoned; and a lease was taken of Aiskew Grange Farm, which stands due west of The Leases. Some of the buildings being converted into kennels.

Mr. Duncombe retained Joe Mason as his Huntsman until the end of the season



'60—'61, when a man from Mr. John Hill's kennels took his place. He only remained one season ; and three others, Harrison, G. Beers and Christian, each carried the horn for a like period. In 1865 Stephen Shepherd, who had been whipper-in for many years, was put on and remained until Mr. Duncombe gave up the hounds in 1867, in which year he succeeded to the Barony of Feversham, being created an Earl the following year.

I have only been able to obtain scant information about the sport during Mr. Duncombe's Mastership. Lord Feversham has no hunting diaries to help one, and there are none now living who remember hunting when he was Master. During the last six years of his time, i.e., from 1861—67, he hunted the Yorkshire side of the Raby country ; that is as far north as the river Tees. This was the period when the Raby country was lent to the Masters of the Durham and Hurworth (see pedigree).

After the death of the 2nd Duke of Cleveland in 1864, the subscription which he had given to the Masters of the Durham and Hurworth Hounds of £500 each, was discontinued. Under these circumstances they probably confined themselves solely to hunting the Durham and Hurworth sides of the old Raby country ; and the late Mr. Christopher Cradock, and Mr. George Gilpin-Brown, gave Mr. Duncombe £500 each per annum, to hunt the above mentioned Yorkshire side, one day a week.

The points of two or three good runs are here given, but I am unable to furnish much detail.

Found in a plantation near Winston Bridge, and running by Barningham, killed on Hallgate Moor.

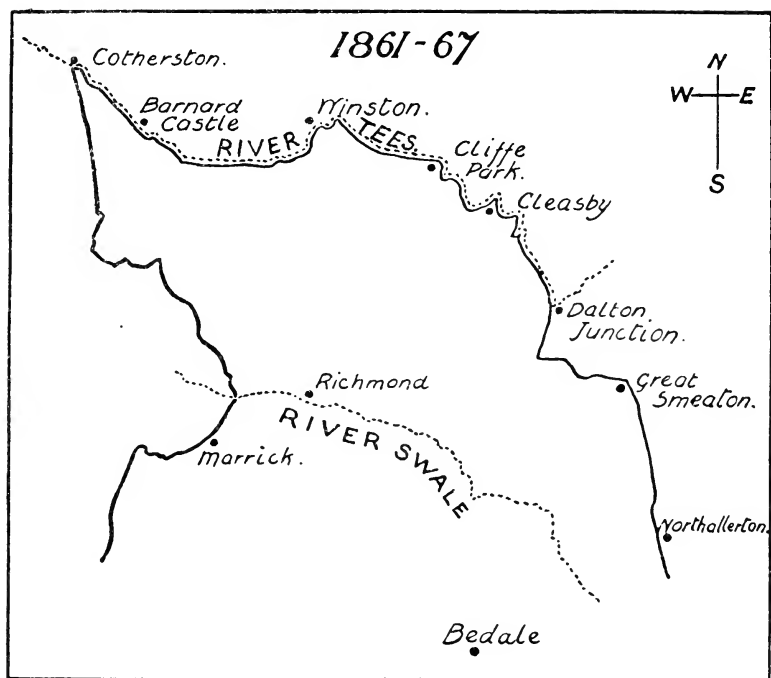
Found near Middleham, and ran to Richmond. Found at Spennithorn Whin, and killed at Easby.

On the 25th January there was a very quick gallop into the Hurworth country.

Met at Skipton Bridge, but nothing was done until Mr. Bell's Whin, near Thirsk railway station, was reached. From here a fox broke away at once on the west side, and ran by Abel Grange, skirting the Wood End coverts, across the Park there, over the Thirsk and Northallerton Road to Purgatory Whin. Hounds pushed him on from here with no sign of a check; over the Cod Beck Ings, straight to Cotcliffe Wood; leaving the village of Borrowby on the right. He tried to reach the open country on the top of the hill above the wood, but the pace had been too severe, and his strength failing him, turned down the hill again and made for the "main earths," but two hundred yards before he could reach them, hounds ran into him.

This is a good six mile point, and the time recorded for the distance run is thirty minutes. Hounds must have raced!

Mr. Duncombe must, at this time, have thought of giving up the hounds, as the account from which the above is an extract,



concludes by saying: "I trust that our excellent Master will receive such encouragement as will cause him to reconsider his determination of giving up the hounds."

On the 11th February, 1863, hounds took a fox into the Bilsdale country.

Met at York Gate, but did not find a fox between Baldersby and the Thirsk coverts.

At last one was found in a small spinney near Lord Cathcart's tile yards at Wood End, on the west of the railway line. He crossed the railway, passed the Lodge gates, up the avenue to Wood End and pointed for Thirsk, but turning northwards went by Thornton-le-Street village, as if Cotcliffe Wood was his destination. Being headed near Knayton, he turned back from there over the Upsall pastures, through Upsall gorse, then turned up the hill to Woolmoor Common, from here through Mr. Elsey's Plantations, and finally got to ground in Shotwood Bank, after a very severe hunt of fifty-five minutes. The writer of this account says "On rising the hill from Upsall, the 'field' was much in difficulty. Horses pumped, riders off, girths slacked, heads to the wind."

On the 5th December, 1866, there was a very fast forty-five minutes from Uckerby Whin. Ran first across to Halnaby, then bore right-handed past Clervaux Castle, straight to Croft, where hounds ran into their fox in front of the Archdeacon's house.

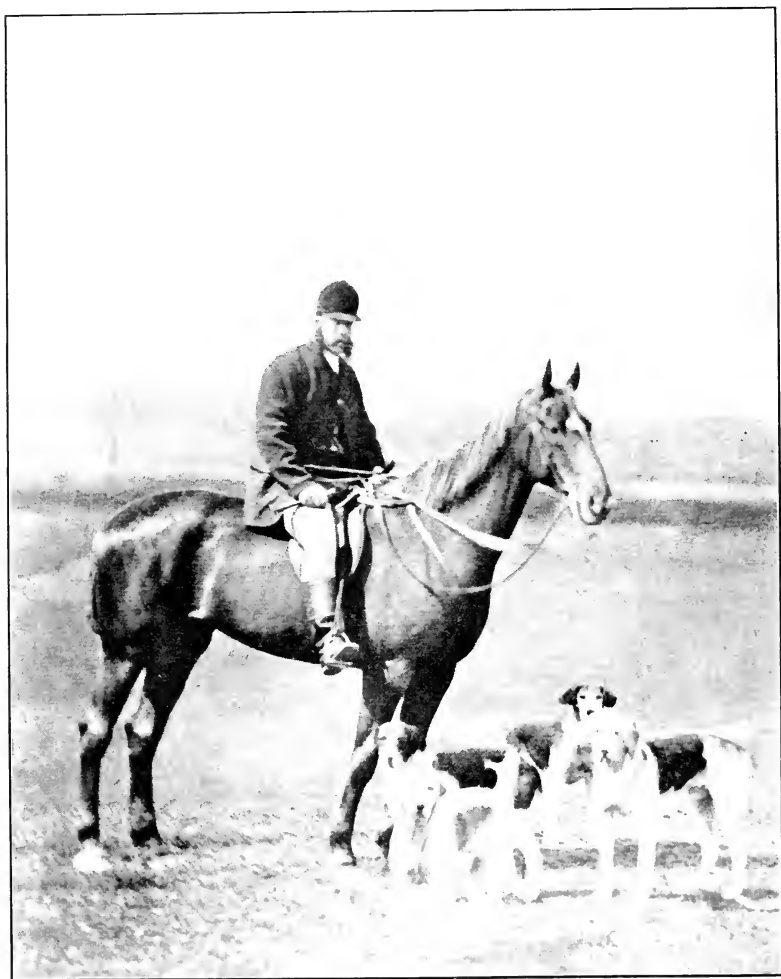
A correspondent of "Bell's Life" re-

cording that Mr. Wilson, of Cliffe Hall, Mr. Masterman, Major Scrope, and the Master, had the best of the run.

It is to be feared that towards the end of Mr. Duncombe's mastership, hunting matters had got rather slack. The breech loading gun had recently been introduced, and, whether this induced a larger head of game to be reared and maintained, making the shooting thereof a more important business than it had been previously; there is no doubt that the supply of foxes sadly diminished, and keenness for "hunting with the running hounds" was deplorably on the wane.

Mr. John Booth is reported to have said that during his first season, "he rode five hundred miles over the Bedale country without touching the line of a fox."

Let us hope that such a fearful stigma will never again attach itself to the "Bedale" so long as a pack of foxhounds exists therein.



CHAPTER IV.

1867—1878.

JOHN B. BOOTH.

“ Tell me a man is a Fox hunter, and I loves him
at once.”—*Surtees*.

When Lord Feversham gave up the hounds at the end of the season 1866—7, great difficulty was experienced in finding a new Master. Three meetings were held at Bedale to discuss the question, but no one came forward to take the country.

On the 14th April, Lord Feversham's hounds were put up for auction by Messrs. Tattersall, at The Leases' Kennels, and what then occurred is best told in Mr. Booth's own words.

“ We were at the sale of the hounds, no one had come forward to hunt the country, and there was every prospect of the Bedale Hunt and Hounds ceasing to exist. I was more than sad, and said to my dear friend, Mr. H. Clare Vyner, that in a moment there would be no ‘Bedale.’ His reply was ‘Go on Booth—buy—we’ll back you.’ I did go on, and bought the hounds, thirty-three

couples, for £430.''' His co-guarantors were Mr. Clare Vyner, Mr. J. Hutton, Colonel Straubenzee, and Mr. Bruere. A circular letter was at once sent to those who had been in the habit of hunting, asking for support to carry on the Hunt. £510 was very soon raised, and the balance was spent in purchasing some draft hounds, and improving existing fox-coverts. In this manner was laid the foundation of the present Bedale Hounds, which from this date became the property of the country. The first entry of any Bedale hounds in the Foxhound Kennel Stud Book is for the year 1862, a nine season dog, probably one of those bought at Lord Feversham's sale.

For many years the Bedale seem to have depended on draft hounds, few being home bred, and hardly any home stallion hounds used. In Appendix B will be found an account of the various Kennels from which hounds have come, and stallion hounds have been used.

On the 9th October, a general meeting of all interested in hunting was held, and it was arranged that Mr. Booth should hunt the country five days a fortnight, with a guaranteed subscription of £1000 a year. Having regard to the last paragraph of the previous chapter, Mr. Booth remarks "It was an uphill game at first, but all came right in the end."

Mr. Booth was an excellent judge of a horse, and won many Hunter prizes with

Jeweller, Beechwood, Ballet Girl, Brigadier, Brian Borue, Bird of Passage, British Queen and others. One horse he had while Master, a grey, called Beacon, carried him for ten seasons, with only one fall. Another good one he owned called Jack o' Lantern, was bought in an odd way. He went to see him late one evening in Fencote village, his owner not content with showing him the horse added "You hang about a bit, nubbut you let my old woman and her clatter get to bed, and I'll let you see him loup." When the old woman and clatter had gone to bed, the man tied a couple of lanterns to the posts of a gate, and put the horse over it two or three times. Mr. Booth was so delighted with the performance, he bought him there and then, and called him Jack o' Lantern.

While relating stories which do not strictly appertain to hunting the fox, one referring to Mr. Booth's father and the late Sir Tatton Sykes, seems worthy of mention. On one occasion Sir Tatton had come over to ride a horse of Mr. Booth's called Joker, at Northallerton Races. After winning the race as he thought, and having pulled up, he discovered that he had to go round the course again to complete the distance. It was the year of Sir Tatton's marriage (1822), and Lady Sykes was in the Stand as a bride. When apologising to Mr. Booth for his mistake, he said "I am very sorry, Sir, but you must blame Lady Sykes, not me, for the mistake; I was thinking more of her than

my work.” This seems to me to be a most typical anecdote about this straightforward, portsing, and well-behaved Yorkshire gentleman.

Mr. Booth engaged as his huntsman, Tom Carr (who came from the Herefordshire) and Charles Orvis, as whipper-in.

During his Mastership he had some excellent gallops, and some wonderfully good fox-hunts. He had to contend with a badly stopped country and a scarcity of foxes at some periods; so, had some very long draws and some very disappointing days; but, generally speaking, his time in command was a sporting and successful one. Mr. George B. Peirson, of Baldersby, a very old friend of his, thus writes of him.

“As a horseman, Mr. Booth, when his weight is considered, was a wonderful man to hounds. Anything he rode soon became a clever hunter, and it was a very formidable place that would stop him when hounds really ran.

A thorough sportsman, a genial host, and a deeply regretted, and to this day much missed friend, are my memories of John Booth.”

He kept a most accurate and interesting hunting diary, and from it one finds that he hunted the south-east and south-west portions of the country very frequently. Newby Hall, Bamlett's Whin, Carlton Rush, Baldersby, Leckby, Milby Whins, the Thirsk Hall coverts and those of Thornton-le-Street, never failed to provide a good stout fox.

On the north-west, he was also pretty sure of sport. Thornhills and Tunstall Whins, Hipswell, Hudswell, Brough and Scotton generally furnishing the "needful."

A curious fact has struck me on carefully reading Mr. Booth's diaries, how very often hounds went back to a covert they had found in earlier in the day, and invariably were able to find another fox. We can seldom do this now-a-days. Is it that the coverts were thicker and more holding, or that the foxes were less wild? I fear the answer must be in favour of the coverts.

That there is a very strong hereditary instinct among foxes is amply proved by the run of them, for more than seventy years from such places as Hutton Bonville, Uckerby, Thrintoft, Cowton and Langton. If I describe a hunt from any of these places at this date, it is "a thousand to one" that it would correspond point for point with one which took place fifty, even seventy years ago.

Let me now get Mr. Booth to work, and record a few of his best runs, and other incidents during his Mastership.

1867 — 68. He never commenced cub-hunting before the third week in September.

Presumably to inaugurate Mr. Booth's accession as Master, a Hunt Club dinner was held at the Black Swan, Bedale. Mr. Mark Milbank being in the chair and twenty-one members present.

On the 6th November there was a capital hunt from Thornhills Whin. Hounds met

at Brough, but doing nothing there, drew Thornhills, from which place a fox first of all ran a ring out by Hauxwell, then back to the Whin, away from here by the edge of Scotton Moor to Newfound-England, turned from here through Hauxwell and Garriston to Constable Burton; but the west seemed to be his point, so he turned again, past Bellerby to Leyburn Shawl. He ran the length of this covert, down the hill nearly to Bolton Hall, then retracing his steps went through the west end of the Shawl to Preston Gill, dropped the hill again through Preston village, through the Shawl again, and hounds pulled him down just outside Leyburn, after a good hunt of two hours and thirty-five minutes.

In November this year, hounds ran a fox to ground in a drain at the back of Grewelthorpe village. When the terrier was put in, no less than four foxes bolted.

In February, 1868, Lord Harewood gave the Hunt a field at Thrintoft, to be sown as a Whin Covert. Rental one shilling a year.

This season ended on the 18th April, there having been eight blank days, and hounds having killed eleven brace of foxes.

1868—69. On the 17th December, there was a capital point and gallop of 55 minutes. The ground rode very heavy, and most horses were dead beat.

Found at Cowton Whin, away at once past the old Church, across the Bottoms to East Cowton village; left Cowton station on the right, up to High Magdalen Farm,

heading as if for Entercommon ; but bearing to the left, the fox went through Forty Acres Wood, across into Beverley Wood, and running the whole length of this covert, got to ground in Sockburn Scar, just in front of hounds.

There is no doubt that at this time there was a great scarcity of foxes all over the country, as on the 28th December, when hounds met at Leeming station, eighteen coverts were drawn without the line of a fox being touched.

On the 22nd December, a large meeting of the members of the Hunt, and others interested, was held in Bedale (Mr. Mark Milbank, presiding); when all the large land owners pledged themselves to do everything in their power to ensure the better preservation of foxes. This promise was kept, and for a time a marked improvement was visible in the supply.

As the Bedale hounds occasionally cross the river Yore into the York and Ainsty country from Newby Hall, it may be well to mention briefly the terrible accident which happened with the York and Ainsty at the ferry there on February 4th, 1869, whereby Sir Charles Slingsby (the Master) Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. James Robinson, William Orvis (kennel huntsman), Christopher and James Warriner (the ferrymen), were drowned.

Thirteen men and eleven horses were on the ferry boat, six men and nine horses were drowned. The survivors among the men being Sir George Wombwell, Bart., Captain

Molyneux, R.N., Captain W. H. Key, of Fulford Hall, Major Mussenden, 8th Hussars, Mr. Richard Thompson (of Kirby), Mr. Clare Vyner, and Mr. White, 15th Hussars.

Two horses only reached the bank. Sir Charles's favourite "Saltfish," and Mr. Thompson's "Woodpigeon."

Hounds had brought their fox from Greenwood's Whin, near Bishop Monkton with a rare scent, and he had crossed the river into the Bedale country, close to the ferry at Newby. *Through the eagerness of everyone to get forward*, the boat was undoubtedly overloaded, three or four horses being its outside capacity, and almost as soon as she was under weigh, she capsized.

A gloom was cast over the hunting world—not of Yorkshire only—but in all parts.

The York and Ainsty did not hunt again that season, and neighbouring packs of hounds went and had a day each, by invitation.

Hunting ceased on 3rd April. There having been seven blank days, and hounds having killed nine brace of foxes.

1869—70. November 18th provided a good day's sport. Meeting at Scorton, hounds went first to Uckerby Whin. Found here at once, and ran straight to Moulton village, being headed here, he ran direct to Halnaby, and hounds rolled him over close in front of the dining-room windows at that place, after a very quick thirty-seven minutes.

A better hunt was, however, to come.

Cowton Whin was drawn blank, but a fox

was found in a small covert on Atlay Hill, which ran to the Tile Sheds Plantation at Streatlam, where a brace more were afoot. After hunting the leash in covert for some time, all three broke away about fifty yards behind one another, and took the same line to Hodber Hill Plantation at Kiplin. Hounds pushed one away from here over the Forest Farm, then bearing east, nearly up to Streatlam village; taking a turn to the north from here, hounds ran past the Tile Shed Plantation straight up to Pepper Arden, over the Park there, into the Bottoms on the north side. Being headed near the Church, he turned back through the Park, to East Cowton village, and on to Cowton station. Here again, being headed by people working on the railway, he turned towards Birkby, and ran parallel with the Wiske up to Hutton Bonville, bore right-handed from here nearly up to Streatlam Whin, headed again here, he turned back through Danby Wiske village and on into the Hutton Bonville coverts; leaving them he ran towards Birkby again, but hounds had to be stopped, as it was pitch dark, having run for two hours and thirty-six minutes. A twisting sort of a hunt, but the fox seems to have been headed in all directions.

On January 8th, found in Spennithorne Whin, and ran to within two fields of Marri-forth coverts, turning here the fox ran down Ruswick Gill, on the south side of Fingall village to Croft Wood, crossed the railway, and on by Constable Burton Hall to Forty Acres

Wood, away to the west end of this, pointing for Leyburn; being headed near Harmby village, he turned left-handed by Spennithorne, through the Whin where he was found, and forward to Hutton Hang; then made a turn westward to Danby-on-Yore, bore towards Thornton Steward, over the hill here as if Finghall was his point, but his bolt was nearly shot, and after going a short distance towards Hutton Hang hounds killed him. A very fast gallop of one hour and twenty-five minutes.

The field got very much scattered, the following being the only people present when the fox was killed. Mr. Booth, Mr. Gerald Wilson, Mr. John Osborne, Hudson (the jockey), and the two Hunt servants.

As few of the "field" had seen anything of this run, Mr. Booth was prevailed upon to draw again—although the servants' horses were dead beat. A fox was found in Marri-forth, and after a ringing hunt back to the Whin, a beaten fox had to be left, as the servants could not get on. Mr. Booth remarks "a silly thing to do, and I shall never be induced again to draw for a fresh fox under similar circumstances."

On the 19th January, there was a good point and gallop of one hour and eighteen minutes.

Found a brace in Bamlett's Whin. Hounds divided, but the body took one fox on to Catton village (where he recrossed the Swale) through the Old Whin at Baldersby, past York

Gate, straight to Withernwick coverts leaving Melmerby village to the right. From Withernwick, across to the Willow garth below Nunwick, through it past Hutton Conyers, and over the hill as if for Sharow; but turning right-handed from here, hounds ran into their fox on the banks of the Yore, close to Ripon station railway bridge.

Hunting ceased on the 25th April. There was no blank day, and fifteen brace of foxes were killed.

1870—71. Among the entry of this year, was an extraordinary speedy and bold dog called 'Singer' (by 'The Bramham Stormer' out of 'Charity').

One day when drawing Hutton Moor gorse covert, a fox jumped up in view of the pack. 'Singer' at once shot out from the rest and killed him. A second fox was almost immediately found in the same gorse, and again 'Singer' forged to the front, but as the fox soon after being put up, slipped through a stiff bottomed fence, he was a little more handicapped in his "course." He was, however, quite equal to the occasion, and raced this fox down and killed him.

A third fox was found; and after about an hour's hunt, hounds ran from scent to view (at Norton Conyers), and 'Singer' again distinguished himself. Leaving the rest of the pack, he coursed and killed this third fox, in the sunk fence just below the Fish Pond. On account of his excessive speed he was included in the draft, but for some reason

the order was cancelled, and he continued to work for several seasons.

About this time a strange sight was one day witnessed, when hounds met at Newby Hall.

As soon as they had found a fox at the Duck Pond covert in the Park, and were just settling down nicely to the line, Mr. Booth, Mr. Clare Vyner, Mr. Peter Wilkinson, and Captain R. Meysey-Thompson were seen to gallop madly on top of hounds, despite the huntsman's remonstrances to 'hold hard.' After they had got about a quarter of a mile ahead of fox and hounds, this apparently mad quartette pulled up; when the astonished "field" was told that what had occurred was to decide whether hounds or well-bred horses were the faster for a few furlongs.

Mr. Booth and Vyner backing the hounds, Mr. Wilkinson and Captain Meysey-Thompson the horses.

On the 16th January there was a good run.

Found in a small covert close to Thornton Watlass, ran past the Hall, towards the Old Whin as if for Marriforth; turning short of this, the fox went over Nomans Moor, through Cocked Hat Wood, and out towards Ruswick Gill, but bore right-handed from this to Newton-le-Willows; crossed the Beck, past Grazing Nook Farm, and over the hill by Hunton, as if Thornhills Whin was his point; being headed short of this covert, he kept on northwards, and leaving Scotton Hall on the right was killed about three-quarters of a mile

from that place, after a capital gallop of two hours ; the distance being about sixteen miles as hounds ran. The ground was very heavy and only a few saw the finish ; among them being Sir John Lawson, Mr. Coore, Mr. Benyon, Mr. W. C. Booth, Mr. Ernest Powlett and Mr. Tate ; Miss Stainton and Miss Dalton both going very well through the run.

21st February. Found two brace of foxes in Thornhills Whin. After a large ring with one of them, which was lost near Hunton ; the Whin was drawn a second time, and responded to the call. This fox ran down to Hauxwell, leaving the Hall on the right, went past Barden village, through the north-west end of Forty Acres Wood to Straubenzee's Whin, made a left-handed turn towards Harmby, then back through Forty Acres up to Constable Burton ; across by Garriston village, over Barden Beck, to ground at Barden Farm. One hour and a half. Although a circular hunt, it must have been a good run over a fine piece of country. For the last two miles, the fox was viewed several times only a field ahead of hounds, so it was hard luck their not getting blood. Hounds hunted this season up to the 13th April, and there was only one blank day.

Mr. Booth hunted the Leckby, Cundall, Newby Hall and present Wednesday country a good deal this year ; as also the north-west side, round Scotton, Hauxwell, Hipswell, and Brough, finding plenty of foxes and having some good sport.

1871—72. This season Mr. Booth hunted the hounds himself, having as his first whipper-in and kennel huntsman, Alfred Thatcher (the father of Arthur Thatcher, who for many seasons showed such good sport with the Cottessmore, and is now with Mr. Fernie's hounds), and H. Harrison as second whipper-in.

One who knew him well, thus writes of Mr. Booth as a huntsman.

"He was wonderfully in sympathy with his hounds, and by this, got them to persevere most patiently on a cold scent.

He used to go away very quick from covert ; no waiting for laggards, believing that the first ten minutes' real burst kills your fox ; and that from four to six couples of hounds was enough for this.' '*

He believed in the first principles of fox-hunting ; that hounds, horses, servants, &c., are kept to kill the fox, so he never gave them more chances than he could help, knowing perfectly well that a fox has scores of dodges by which he can escape, of which most huntsmen *know* little.

On going to draw Thornhills Whin for the first time this season, Mr. Booth was horrified to find that two rides had been cut in it—one from east to west, one from north to

* Opinions differ. Some say that a keen hound will seldom be left twice, if given a fair chance of getting away with the body. Others say, that being left, makes dog hounds especially, jealous, and causes them to run cunning. I should draft those which are often left. (Editor).

south. He was naturally very much annoyed, as nothing disturbs a Whin covert more than this. It seems to make the foxes suspicious, the wind is let into their previously snug quarters ; also perhaps, as the rides would facilitate shooting, the man with a gun is more often in the covert.

One day in October, Mr. Booth very materially assisted his hounds.

They were at the New Whin, Baldersby, which was very thick, and although there were two or three foxes in it, neither they or the hounds could make much headway, so thick was the undergrowth. After about an hour and a half's work, he saw a cub which looked as if it had had about enough, so he got off his horse and caught it ; holloaed his hounds to him, and killed it.

He had prickly recollections of this day the following season, when he happened to be wearing the same pair of Bedford cord breeches again.

While trudging about the covert on foot they had got well studded with soft gorse pricks. These, although not felt at the time, had, with a summer's rest, dried and hardened, and in this the following year, it was like sitting on the " business end of many tin tacks."

Wire is supposed to be a somewhat modern curse, but in November of this year, Mr. Booth notes that Mr. S. Powell got a bad fall over some, near Reedholmes covert.

December the 18th seems to have been

a very hard day, although no great actual point was made.

Met at Killerby. Found at Oran, and ran up the Swale side to Catterick Bridge, being headed here he turned back over the race-course up to Catterick village, crossed the Swale (which was in flood) to Scorton village, past the north end of this, and then straight for Uckerby Whin, within a few fields of which hounds were run out of scent. Time fifty-seven minutes.

Hounds went back to Hornby Castle. Found in Kennel Whin, and ran across to Sandholes Whin, then up to Tunstall Whin, through this on to Scotton village, then bearing left-handed, by Cragg Lane End and Sandholes to the Decoy at Hornby; from there into Langthorne Wood, and on into Goskins; being headed here he turned back to Holtby Grange, and was lost in some buildings there, after one hour and twenty minutes hunting.

Found again at Kirkby Fleetham Whin, and ran by the Mill to Jackal Wood, on through Goskins, across Ainderby Myers, heading for Langthorne Wood; but hounds had to be stopped, after hunting one hour and fifteen minutes, as it was quite dark.

The actual "points" of this day's work are as follows.

Oran to Uckerby	-	- 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles
Kennel Whin to Scotton village	-	- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles
Scotton village to Langthorne	-	- 5 miles
Langthorne to Goskins	-	- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles

Goskins to Holtby - - 1½ miles
 Kirkby Fleetham Mill to Lang-
 thorne - - 2¾ miles

Oran Whin provided another good fox on the 12th February.

Found at once and went across the Leeming Lane to Goskins Wood, turned left-handed from here and ran to Kirkby Fleetham Whin ; past this, on through the Scruton coverts, and crossed the river Swale at the south-east end of them ; straight up to Thrintoft Whin, leaving it on the, right by Masterman's and Custs' Plantations to Streatlam Whin ; through the village, on to the Tile Shed Plantation, direct up to the lodge gates at Pepper Arden ; from here he turned left-handed and ran towards Whitwell Grange, but not having the strength to reach the Kiplin Woods, retraced his steps towards Pepper Arden, and hounds ran into him in the open, after two hours and ten minutes.

The first hour up to Thrintoft, and the last twenty minutes of the run were very fast.

The season closed on the 6th April, there having been only one blank day, and twenty-one brace of foxes were killed.

1872—73. During this season no run of any extraordinary merit took place ; although there were some long and persevering hunting ones.

Mr. Booth describes in his diary, March 12th of 1873, as the hardest day's work he ever had.

Hounds met at Thirsk Station. Found a fox in Carlton Rush, ran through Bamlett's Whin towards Topcliffe, and lost. Went back, and found in Bamlett's Whin, but could make nothing of this fox. Crossed the river Swale and tried the Baldersby Coverts, without finding. Went on to the Hutton Moor coverts; found in the High Covert, and crossing the Leeming Lane ran by Windsor Castle Inn towards Cundall, then making a right-handed turn passed Kirby Windmill and ran out of scent, heading towards the Newby Hall coverts.

Hutton Moor coverts were again drawn, and furnished a fox, which ran a ring out towards Blows Hall and back to the Moor, but was pushed from there and ran past Dishforth to the Black Wood at Baldersby; then on to, but did not enter, Leckby Carr; past Cundall, and turned right-handed for Norton-le-Clay pointing for Kirby Hill; again he changed his mind and returned on the north side of Milby Whin, past Humburton, and forward to Brafferton, where he got to ground near the North Eastern Railway Bridge, after a run of two hours and ten minutes.

Mr. Booth, Mr. Clare Vyner, Mr. George Peirson, Mr. Peter Stevenson, and one or two more, were the only ones to see the end of this very hard day.

As it was then 7 p.m., Mr. Booth took the hounds on to Newby Hall, where his first whipper-in had already gone; gave horses and hounds some gruel, and sent them off, a

twenty mile ride to the kennels, where they arrived about midnight. One of the Hunt horses had to be left at Cundall, and died there; Mr. George Peirson never rode his again. Mr. Booth stayed the night at Newby, and the following morning as he did not appear about nine o'clock to breakfast, Mr. Vyner told his butler to let Mr. Booth know that it was ready. The reply was "I think, sir, Mr. Booth will be nearly at Killerby by now, as he left here at half-past six."

At the conclusion of this season, to the regret of all, Mr. Booth decided to give up hunting the hounds himself. Always a heavy man, he had increased in weight, and found it difficult to mount himself—as he would have liked, and deemed desirable.

His kennel huntsman, Alfred Thatcher, was put on as huntsman, and Robert Walke took his place as first whipper-in.

The season closed on the 19th April. There was only one blank day, and ten brace of foxes were killed.

1873—74. This was the best cub-hunting season Mr. Booth had, there being a capital show of foxes in all parts. Hounds were out twenty-one days, killing ten and a half brace, and marking three brace to ground.

During November, the new Whin coverts at Brough Hall and Solberg were drawn for the first time, and each provided a fox. Happy omen!! It is sometimes difficult to know how to disturb a fox out of a culvert or short drain, when there is no terrier on

the spot. I have seen many ways tried, more often unsuccessful than the reverse. Mr. Booth mentions one which he used with advantage—and which to me is novel: that is, to fire three or four cartridges, with powder only, down the culvert or drain. A gun and cartridges are generally pretty handy.

On the 19th November, there was a good and hard day. After a two hours hunt from Bamlett's Whin, killing their fox near the house at Baldersby Park, hounds found in Busby Stoop Brickyard Plantation, and running by Sand Hutton village, to the south of Carlton village, through Carlton Rush, reached Topcliffe station. Here the fox was probably headed, as he returned on the west of the Topcliffe and Busby Stoop road to the covert where found; then up the Swale banks to what is now Sand Hutton Whin, back from this point to the New Whin at Baldersby, through Ainderby Quernhow to the Holme coverts and on to Pickhill village. Turning from here, he crossed the Leeming Lane, straight to Carthorpe; through Camp Hill and Kirklington Woods to Kirklington village, where he got into some farm buildings, and as it was by now quite dark, Mr. Booth had most reluctantly to leave him.

On the 14th January, Mr. Booth describes the following as the straightest and quickest "forty minutes" he ever saw. Found in the New Whin at Baldersby, ran past Howe, the Holme coverts, Pickhill Wood, Smearholmes and Gatenby Woods, to Newton

House ; a six mile point. Hounds unfortunately got on to the line of a fresh fox at Newton House, and were stopped.

The last meet of this season was held at Catterick, on the 11th April, when Sir John Lawson, of Brough, on behalf of the members of the Hunt and other friends, presented to Mr. Booth a silver hunting horn, and to Miss M. A. Gardom, his future wife, a handsome bracelet, as a token of their goodwill and esteem for him, on his approaching marriage.*

There were four blank days this season, and twenty and a half brace of foxes were killed.

1874—75. On the 12th November, a "Bedale Hunt" dinner was held at the Black Swan Hotel, Bedale, at which eighty members were present, Lord Feversham in the chair: and Mr. Booth was presented with a silver dessert service, a wedding present from the "Hunt."

On the 29th March, two cubs were killed by hounds. An early date to be above ground: or perhaps they were "stub-bred."

It is said that "everything comes to him who waits." Sir John Lawson and Mr. Booth had a "long wait" for a fox on the 10th April, when hounds met at Kilgram Bridge.

They drew Eelmire Wood, Ellington Firth, Ellingstring Plantation, Witton Fell, Clifton Castle, Thorp Perrow, Kirklington and Camp Hill Woods, and Gatenby Wood blank; just

* Mr. Booth was married on the 28th April, 1874.

saving the day by finding a fox at the Old Whin, Newton House. The two above mentioned were the only ones who stayed on till the end of the day. The last day's hunting was on the 21st April. There was only one blank day, and twelve and a half brace of foxes were killed.

1875—76. 12th October. Found a fox for the first time in Lord Downe's new whin covert, at Ripon Parks.

On the 24th November, there was a good day's sport. After finding a brace of foxes in the Black Wood, at Baldersby, which were so persistently headed by the footpeople that nothing could be done with them; hounds hit off the line of a fox in the Park, which ran by Azenby and Dishforth, through the north end of Leckby Carr down to the Swale; turning from the river, he bore right-handed by Cundall village, over Cundall Bottoms, leaving Milby Whin on the left, past Kirby Hill Church to Boroughbridge. Being headed here, he doubled back past the railway station, and ran down the river side as far as Ellingthorpe, where he crossed. In order to get over the river the "field" had to go back to Boroughbridge, and did not see the hounds again until they were close to Grafton Whin in the York and Ainsty country. From this covert the fox turned away, and ran parallel to the river back to Boroughbridge. Close to the bridge here, a fresh fox jumped up in view of hounds, and they ran back with

him nearly to Grafton and round again to Ellingthorpe, when he crossed the river almost at the same place as the original fox from Baldersby.

Hounds were stopped and taken back to the run fox, which had been seen dead beat in the Park at Boroughbridge Hall. They hit off his line, and after running a short distance down the river bank rolled him over, fox and hounds all tumbling into the river. The fox floated a short distance but eventually sank, so hounds were unfortunately deprived of their well-earned blood. An onlooker swam into the river to try and recover the fox, but the water was so cold he had to give up the attempt.

On 24th January, there was a capital gallop from Wild Wood.

The fox went away on the south side up to Finghall, then past the station there, through the bottom of Ruswick Gill over Newton-le-Willows Bottoms, past Grazing Nook Farm due north, by Hesselton and Cote House to the east end of Thornhill's Whin ; from here he bore rather westward, leaving Scotton whin on the right, over Newfound-England Gill, on to Hauxwell Moor. His strength was now failing, and he doubled back over Laver Gill, up Newfound-England Gill on to the Richmond Road, where hounds ran into him a short distance from the four cross-roads, close to Barden village ; after a brilliant gallop of sixty-two minutes. There was no check, hounds having the best of it the whole way.

29th March. A curious accident occurred to a hound this day.

A fox was found in Vicars Moor, and after running for some time on the east of the Swale, crossed the river close to Maunby Ferry and got to ground in Smearholmes, just in front of the hounds.

The leading one, ' Rambler,' having got partially into the "earth," was, in the excitement, worried by the rest of the pack, before the first horseman (John Thomas Robinson, of Leckby) could stop them. He, seeing hounds worrying something, and not knowing of the "earth," thought they had killed, and cheered them on in the breaking up of their fox.

It is almost needless to add that ' Rambler ' was an excellent hound.

On the 4th April, there was a very hard day on the Moor edge; around Swinton, Ilton, Ellingstring, Agra, Jervaulx and Witton Fell. A leash of foxes was killed, Thatcher got through three horses, finished the day on foot, and Mr. Booth had to leave both his out for the night, with Mr. Fitz Ray, at Finghall.

Hunting ended on the 22nd April, it having been the best season for many years. Hounds were out eighty-eight days and killed twenty-two brace of foxes. No blank days.

1876—77. On January 1st there was a capital gallop, although unluckily, hounds did not get blood. Found in Dalton's Whin (near Heslett's Wood), ran across the railway,

through Peter Wood direct down to Nosterfield, where being headed the fox inclined towards Norton Conyers ; but soon making good his point, went past the west end of Thornborough village through Kirklington and Camp Hill Woods ; past Carthorpe village to Hopetown Nurseries, over the Leeming Lane to Smearholmes covert, where he tried the "earths," but finding them closed turned through Gatenby Whin and Wood to the shrubberies at Newton House. Here, unfortunately, the "changeling" was at home, and this good fox lived to fight another day. Time one hour, with no check to speak of and a seven mile point. Those who really saw the gallop were all happy !

January 15th again provided a brisk day's sport. Found in Gatenby Whin, and ran towards the river Swale, then back through Smearholmes, across the Leeming Lane, by Hopetown Nurseries to Kirklington village, direct to Wath ; leaving Middleton Quernhow on the left. From here it looked as if Hutton Moor must be the point, but making a left-handed turn he headed towards Baldersby, but unable to reach these coverts was pulled down in the open, after a first rate hour and twenty minutes. A second fox was found in Pickhill Wood, which ran across to Theakston Grange, but being there headed, turned back through Gatenby Wood to the shrubberies at Newton house. No "changeling" being present on this occasion, he had to move on, and reached Leeming village, from

which he turned left-handed to Exelby, went over the Beck towards Firby Hall, again bore left-handed for the Low Coverts at Thorp Perrow ; before he could reach which, hounds ran into him in the Park. Forty-two minutes, very fast. The season finished on the 9th April. There were five blank days, and eighteen and a half brace of foxes were killed.

1877—78. Although this was a good season's sport, twenty-eight and a half brace of foxes being killed, and there being no blank day ; I find only one run, which I think is worth recording. Found at Uckerby Whin, ran across to Halnaby and from there to Clervaux Castle ; then on through Allan's Whin pointing for (Jukle ? ?), being headed at this point, the fox turned back through the gardens at Halnaby and ran almost the identical line back to Uckerby Whin. There was no pause here, and hounds pushed on with their fox up to Scorton station, through Crosshills covert, over the Atlay Hill and Scorton road, past the Forest Farm, and just short of Whitwell, ran into him after a capital hunt of one hour and fifty minutes. At the beginning of this season Alfred Thatcher returned to the Brocklesby, succeeding Nimrod Long as huntsman to this pack of Hounds ; and Mr. Booth engaged T. Perry from the Vale of White Horse in his place. He began life in Lord Poltimore's service, and was for four seasons a whipper-in to Lord Shannon.

Barney Spence, a great character, and still alive, was promoted from second to first whipper-in.

In the early part of Mr. Booth's Master-ship, when foxes were rather scarce, a bob-tailed one, from the Scotton neighbourhood, saved him seven blank days. He always went the same line, and got to ground in about fifteen minutes ; but Mr. Booth would not allow his sanctuary to be stopped, as under the existing circumstances he thought the reverse of the proverb "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," was best ; and that one fox in front of hounds was worth two in their mouths. Matters however mended considerably, and as has been written he was able to kill twenty-eight and a half brace during his last season, and was instrumental in getting many new whin coverts laid down during the eleven years he was Master of the Hounds.

He often makes a note in his hunting diary that after a run fox had been chased, or even turned by a cur dog, hounds could hardly ever carry any head. This is a well-known fact to all huntsmen, but I fancy the reason is a "sealed book" to them and many others. Can it be a change of scent ? Or is it that the huntsman sees or hears that his fox has been so treated, lifts his hounds and thus upsets them ?

At the end of this season Mr. Booth announced his intention of giving up the hounds, and very much regret was felt at

his decision. During the eleven seasons he had been Master, he had worked hard to further the interests of fox-hunting, and had got together a very workmanlike pack of hounds.

CHAPTER V.

1878—84.

MAJOR HENRY F. DENT.

“Some people call a man a Master of 'ounds what sticks an 'orn in his saddle and blows when he likes, but leaves everything else to the 'untsman. That's not the sort of Master of 'ounds I mean to be.”—

Surtees.

On the resignation of Mr. Booth, several gentlemen were mentioned as likely to take his place, among them being Lord Castle-reagh, The Honourable George Lascelles, Mr. R. Bell, and Mr. George Elliot; but a successor was finally found in Major H. F. Dent, who had recently retired from the 7th Dragoon Guards. He took up his residence at Bedale Grange.

It is sometimes instructive to see ourselves as others see us, and the following description tells how the special correspondent of the “Field” in the summer of 1878, viewed us.

“The Bedale country is one of the best adapted for Fox-hunting in the North of England, a few more good coverts, a few more good foxes, with the right sort to pre-

serve them, being the only desideratum to render it first-rate among the 'provincials.'

The interests of pheasants appear to be paramount, and the preservation of foxes a secondary consideration; so that Mr. Velvetten is rather too much in evidence, and the following lines unfortunately have sometimes proved too true.

" His oath that in one covert
He a brace of foxes saw,
Is the never failing prelude
That betokens a blank draw."

The hounds are a very useful wear and tear sort, lighter in bone and less even in height than some packs, but for all that an improving lot.

A wonderful hound is 'Andover' entering on his ninth season, as fresh as ever on his legs, and not even a toe down. Another curiosity is 'Birthday'. She began her career with the York and Ainsty. One day the horse ridden by a member of the Bedale Hunt, while hunting with the York and Ainsty, lashed out and smashed her leg into splinters. Convinced that the bitch would be of no further use, Colonel Fairfax (the Master of the York and Ainsty) sent word to Mr. Booth, that as one of his 'field' had maimed a hound he had better send for it. Mr. Booth, nothing loth, promptly did so; and 'Birthday' was removed to the Bedale Kennels, where the splintered limb was so skilfully set up by Thatcher (Mr. Booth's huntsman), that she became as sound as a

bell of brass—and is still running at the head of the pack.”

Major Dent retained Mr. Booth’s huntsman and first whipper-in, T. Perry and B. Spence, putting on only a new second whipper-in, G. Burrill.

A “Bedale” bard had not been inspired for many years to write about those who hunted, but in 1878, the spirit came upon Sir Charles Dodsworth, and he published the following poem; which describes very accurately the “field” of this date.

“ Hurrah for the Bedale ! a health to the name
Which shall lead them with honour and cherish their
fame,
And long may our ‘Field’ see bold Dent with the horn
Which Milbank and Booth have so gallantly borne.

From the moors to the Wiske, from the Yore to the
Swale,
On the broad plain of Mowbray, in green Wensleydale,
From marshes of Cowton, to crags of Hackfall,
The hearts of all hearers should leap at the call.

Our Master, you’ll take it for granted that he
Is all that a Master of foxhounds should be,
And Perry has shewn himself active and smart
Since the flesh-pots of Brocklesby stole Thatcher’s
heart.

Comes Scrope¹ from grey halls on the bright slopes
of Yore
On a line of his own, ever seen to the fore ;
That heir of high honours need never aspire
To improve on his title of Simon the Squire.

1 Mr. Simon T. Scrope. Died 1896.

From Brough, Sir John Lawson won't fail to attend
 And whatever the distance, he'll stay to the end.
 Should he meet with misfortunes he recks not of that,
 He has faith in the strength of his broad bottomed
 hat.

And there's our late Master,² who cut us adrift—
 Sixteen stone in the saddle, takes something to lift ;
 But his horses will follow like dogs at his call,
 Give him time—at the finish, he'll make you look
 small.

His brother,³ the sailor, so cheery of heart
 In the mirth of our meetings, takes prominent part ;
 If you want a warm welcome, why, go to Oran,
 If you want a kind friend, why, your host is the man.

And there are the Dawnays,⁴ that neat little group
 Of good-looking brothers, a hard riding troop ;
 Their fair Lady-mother⁵ we gratefully thank
 That the Baldersby coverts are never drawn blank.

Conversing with Peirson,⁶ alongside rides Lane,
 Whose woods are sly Reynard's peculiar domain ;
 And Dalton⁷ uncertain, who whether he'll ride
 With the Bedale or Bramham, can never decide.

And Elliot⁸ on whom the Conservative whip
 Will rely if his party seem likely to trip,
 Though he'll find the stout Member a rum'un to
 bring
 To the post, if we've plenty of foxes next Spring.

2 Mr. John B. Booth, of Killerby.

3 Mr. William Booth, of Oran, who often acted as deputy Master.

4 The Honbles. Guy, Eustace, Geoffrey, and Francis.

5 Widow of William Henry, 7th Viscount Downe.

6 Mr George Peirson, of Baldersby, Mr. Sydney L. Lane, who married the widow of the 7th Viscount Downe.

7 Mr. John Dalton, of Sleningford Park.

8 Mr. George Elliot, M.P. M.F.H., 1884.

There is one we shall often recall to the mind
 Stricken down for a season by fortune unkind,
 Which has snatched from the sport which he ever
 held dear
 A youth,⁹ who for humour, had never his peer.

And here should his Reverence of Finghall relate
 How he used to be known as a dapper light weight ;
 Or you, stately Rector of Scruton discourse—
 For you can, if you will—on the points of a horse.

But see there's Major Bell,¹⁰ of Northumbrian fame,
 So youthful a man, for his age, you can't name ;
 Then Garrett,¹¹ from Crakehall, and with him on
 leave,
 His Lancer or Linesman, we love to receive.

In a phæton and pair, by her cheery-faced spouse,
 Spick and span, at the covert side, sits Mrs. Rouse ;
 At Firby she rules merry mistress, and he
 A disciple of Nimrod, as firm as need be.

Mrs. Radcliffe behold, all alert for a start,
 No weather or distance can daunt her brave heart ;
 With her husband as eager for sport as his wife,
 Beside them, Miss Staveley¹² prepared for the strife.

And see Mrs. St. Paul,¹³ with her brother as squire,
 No horseman to beat her you'll find in the Shire ;
 When the meet is near Swinton, its Lady¹⁴ is there—
 But Oh shame ! Mrs. Robson,¹⁵ to sell your good mare.

9 Mr Fitz Ray, of Finghall.

10 Major Bell, of Aiskew.

11 Major Garrett. 16th Lancers, of Crakehall.

12 Miss Staveley, of Old Sleningford Hall.

13 Sister of Mr. John Dalton, of Sleningford Park.

14 Lady Lavinia Bertie, who married Mr. R. Bickersteth,
 son of the late Bishop of Ripon.

15 Mrs. Robson, of Crakehall.

¹⁶Then Sir Charles, the eccentric, with chatterbox Fred,
And Matthew, Oxonian, just out of bed ;
From rook-cradled Thornton, their sister¹⁷ would
 speed,
But it's seldom the brothers will lend her a steed.

And there is the Colonel,¹⁸ mistake him who can,
That ever vivacious and popular man ;
The Russians did well, when they spared him to grace
Our ballrooms and meets, with his debonnaire face.

There is Hutton,¹⁹ once Westminster's youngest M.P.,
Whom Father some day of the House we may see,
With his brother, and Carter²⁰ who fought in the van,
When troubles were thickest in far Hindustan.

Fair Kiplin and Carpenter met but to part,
And for Vyner,²¹ the Turf has first claim on his heart ;
But fox-beloved Bonvilles' plantations of larch
Send the Chairman,²² quintessence of new pink and
 starch.

There's Robinson²³ dead on short cuts, and young
 Marr
From Thirsk, who escaped without even a scar,
After nearly an hour, every moment of which
He seemed destined to drown in that bottomless
 ditch.

And that sprucest of bankers²⁴—the sight makes one
 yearn
To have shares in what must be a paying concern ;

16 The brothers Dodsworth of Thornton-Watlass.

17 Lady Beresford-Peirse.

18 Colonel The Hon. A. Cathcart, late Grenadier Guards.

19 Mr. John Hutton of Solberg.

20 Captain Charles Carter (late 58th Bengal Native Infantry).

21 Mr. R. C. Vyner, of Newby Hall.

22 Mr. J. R. Hildyard, Chairman of Quarter Sessions.

23 Mr. J. T. Robinson, a farmer from Leckby, with excellent hands, and a capital man to hounds.

24 Mr. Gerald Duncombe. Son of the late Dean of York.

I should think that no trouble could ever displace
The smile of content on his prosperous face.

Next Lawson,²⁵ who fearing a mistress might vex
His bachelor household, fights shy of the sex ;
With Wilmot,²⁶ the quiet and skilful, whose horse
Knows his rider means work, when a fox quits the
gorse.

And our Argus-eyed Chief of Police,²⁷ who you'll find
With Allan and Cecil lags never behind ;
Or the Master²⁸ of Larpool who reared in his pride,
A palace, the glory of Hambledon-side.
From his bride and new home comes young Bell,²⁹
of the Hall,
Near Miss Hodgson,³⁰ whose grey will not give her
a fall ;
Then Jester's bold owner,³¹ and some who were rough
On the neighbours with whom they claim kinship at
Brough.

And Stobart³² has passed through the park gates at
Wath,
Where Sir Bellingham's manor lies hid from the path,
That home whence old Norton who dared to defy
The might of the Tudors, departed to die.

25 Mr. Andrew Lawson, of Aldborough Manor.

26 Mr. Wilmot-Smith, brother-in law of above.

27 Captain Hill (late Chief Constable of the North Riding),
and his two sons.

28 Captain E. Turton, late 3rd Dragoon Guards, of Upsall
Castle.

29 Mr. Reginald Bell, The Hall, Thirsk.

30 A very fine rider, sister of Mr. Lumley Hodgson, of Sand
Hutton.

31 Mr. Teasdale Hutchinson, of Catterick. 'His horse 'Jester'
took many prizes in the show ring, and was also a very
fine hunter over a country.

32 The late Mr. William Stobart, then tenant of Norton
Conyers.

Where legend has graven a mark of the flight
Of Cavalier Graham from Long-Marston fight ;
Such memories flit through my brain as I ride,
On the white shingle-beach of that flat waterside.

Then Turf-loving Middleham equips one or two
Of the world renowned trainers, and lads not a few.
Though Providence sometimes to sinners permits
Acquaintance unsought with the heels of their 'tits'.

Mr. Powell,³³ from Sharow, will not be the last
Nor the Captain, excitable, hurrying fast ;
While the children of Sion³⁴ are safe for a place,
The daughters and sons of a fox-hunting race.

Then there's long headed Lascelles,³⁵ not often
thrown out,
In business or sport he knows what he's about.
And his tact and suave manner have kept us afloat
When the Hunt didn't sail in a very safe boat.

See Russell³⁶ the restless, the moody, the gay,
The thoughtless or thoughtful, I doubt which to say.
Musician and sportsman, he rides in the van
And the charm of his smile, resist it who can ?

Next humorous Crompton,³⁷ so fond of a swim,
On a brute which would tire any other but him.
His eye has a twinkle—I think if he chose
He could kick up a shine with the secrets he knows.

33 The Rev. S. H. Powell and his son, Captain Sam Powell.

34 The children of the Hon. George Lascelles, of Sion Hall.

35 The Hon. George Lascelles. Brother of the 4th Earl of Harewood. The 2nd Earl having been Master of the present "Bramham Moor Hounds."

36 Mr. W. D. Russell, of Newton House.

37 Mr. R. Crompton, of Azerley Chace.

You're sure to see Kirby,³⁸ a veteran and one,
Whose good will to the Chase is second to none,
And when he and we shall be laid on the shelf
The Whin which he planted, will speak for itself.

Mr. White³⁹ at a distance is easy to tell,
With a trifle less pace, he might get on as well ;
While dark-bearded Smith will be sailing away
With Peacock, who skilfully steers his bold gray.

But forgive me brave yeomen whose names I don't
know,
On crocks good or bad you are good'uns to go,
And the smallest farm lad, on his pony grass-fed,
Is keen as the man on his sleek thorough-bred.

A cheer for the strangers, who sometimes will share
Our sport, from the Zetland, the York or elsewhere,
May we find a good fox every time they appear.

There was Wynyard's young master,⁴⁰ who flashed on
the scene
For a season well horsed, ne'er a sportsman more
keen.
And as Chesterfield gained the applause of our sires,
So *his* air was the theme of our Richmondshire
Squires.

Then the Bridegroom⁴¹ and Member of North Riding
choice
With the charm of the Grahams in feature and voice;
And Crossley,⁴² good natured, whose wife in a car
Scandinavian, would drive in the wake of our war.

38 A sporting grocer of Bedale, and real good friend to fox-hunting.

39 A hard riding farmer from Burrill.

40 The present Lord Londonderry, who rented Kirkby Fleetham Hall, for one or two seasons, when Lord Castle-reagh.

41 The late Lord Helmsley, who rented Ainderby Hall for a season. M.P. for the North Riding.

42 The tenant of Aldburgh Hall, Masham.

1878—79. This season was very broken, frost causing the loss of many days hunting. In December '78 and January '79, hounds were only able to hunt five days, and the total of hunting days was therefore only sixty-seven. Seventeen and a half brace of foxes being killed.

Three days' sport during the season seem worthy of record.

On October 11th, found in Low Park Wood, very quick away through Low Park Whin, through Horse Close Wood, Camp Hill and Kirklington Woods, towards Kirklington village; bore then right-handed by Thornborough to Nosterfield, up the hill to Peter Wood, through this, over the railway into Heslett's Wood, on into Tanfield Banks, and there killed after one hour and five minutes without a check.

Although the following appears to have been somewhat an unorthodox sort of hunt, it must have been rather a good one; and the account, given in the words of one who took the chief part in it, is quaint. It has been sent to me by an old resident in East Witton who "bagged" the brush. "I right to give yon a count of the gallus day with the Bedale hounds on record, in 1879. February the 19th. The meet was at Hauxwell Hall, Colonel Wades' place, and a gallant company of both Lades and Gentlemen including two of Miss Elliotts and about seventy horsemen. After trying tow or three smole plantations, we got on to the

open on Barden Moore. After we got well over, tow of the right sort got up, and hounds got divided, and my lot we had eight hounds and as grand a Fox as ever started a Chase, and we had nither huntsman, nor wip, nor Marster. Reney took straight for Newfound England, and then he turned right hand pas Drugen Ill (Druggon Hill) farm, and past pleasant dole (Pleasant Dale) and right Down for Coubern (Colburn) Big Wood, but he found no rest theer, oblige tow change is quarters, he then took another rout, he tooke right past Mr. Jages (Mr. Jacques's), Easby Hall and over the railway and over Swale, and just on thee rasecorse (at Richmond). Nowing that he had got in tow Lord Zetland's hunt, he thowght he would be giving him a round, so he turn back an left Richmon on thee Left, then came pas Holey Hill (Holy Hill) and down to Coubern agane, thee pase was then getting wery weak, as both Horses and Hound and I think thee fox had had quite plenty off, as there was only five Horse men Left, but thee Hounds had strength to force him out once more, then right over front of Holey Hill intow a Smail Plantation and Finished as galen a Fox as ever gave a noble chase. Only tow up at the kill, myself and my cind (kind) Frend, F. Bates of Tupgill, wer both up together, and no horse could fice thee fence in where he lay ded But I rode close hup tow thee fence and threw myself head firs throug thee fence and picke

Reney up, and defeating my cind friend of thee brush wich I still have in my room, stuff. But we did not fall out 'bout thee brush, for we were very cind friends till God coled him home."

On the 22nd March ('79). Met at Solberg. Found at once in the New Whin covert and ran across to the Bank at Newby-Wiske. Being headed here, the fox turned back right-handed to Maunby village, and crossing the Swale pointed for Gatenby village, but not liking the west side of the river, re-crossed at "Bottle neck," and ran over the big pastures parallel to the river, up to Morton Bridge. He must have had a dash of otter blood somehow, as again he crossed the Swale, where the Bedale Beck joins the river; and skirting Grimescar Mill, went through Aiskew Moor Whin, past the "Leases," leaving the Kennels (then just below the Leases) on the right, over the Scurff Beck, and hounds ran into this good fox in the open, close to Kirk Bridge; after a capital gallop of one hour and twenty minutes..

12th April. Although the fox hunter's delight was not accomplished on this date; that is, the fair and square death of a fox after a good hunt—yet the gallop is worth mention.

Hounds met at Kiplin; and after some work about there, and Pepper Arden, in the earlier part of the day; found in the Brick Yard Plantation near Streatlam. They ran sharp by Langton nearly up to Thrintoft village,

turned left-handed by Yafforth Grange, skirting Thrintoft Whin, to Danby Wiske village. From here the fox hung to the river Wiske, and passing by Reedholme covert, went on to Pepper Arden, from which he turned back, and was lost near the Brick Yard Plantation, after a very good run of an hour and a half.

1879—80. This season Major Dent hunted hounds himself. T. Perry remaining on as his Kennel Huntsman.

It was a fairly good year. Hounds being out seventy-six days and killing twenty-four brace of foxes.

Two runs are worth recording.

18th December. Met at Danby-on-Yore.

Found in Forty Acres and ran across to Newfound-England, turned from there back by Hauxwell, to Forty Acres; up to this point hounds had run very fast. From here there was a very pretty hunt round by Bellerby nearly up to Leyburn Shawl, then turning back, hounds ran into their fox at the back of Mr. Riddell's house at Leyburn. Two hours.

12th January. Although somewhat circular, this was a good day.

Met at Sleningford Park. Found in the New Whin covert at Ripon Parks, and ran very sharp west, to Azerley Whin, being headed here the fox turned back, and leaving the house at Sleningford on his right went down to the banks of the river Yore near Sleningford Grange. He turned from here

and ran on to Mickley, forward into Hackfall, through this, out towards Swinton, and back into Hackfall; from there to Azerley Whin, and into the fox covert at Sleningford. Passing through this he headed for his starting place, but turning left-handed under Sleningford Grange, was pulled down in the Park after a capital good hunt of two hours and twenty minutes. During this season three separate foxes were found—laid up in trees.

1880—81. Major Dent again this year carried the horn, and although greatly interfered with by frost (being stopped nine weeks), put in a goodly number of days hunting, and sport; and brought twenty-six brace of foxes to hand.

The best point, and ending to a hunt, for this season seems to be the following.

13th December. Found in Watlass Whin, ran by Thornton Watlass church, to Thorp Perrow; across the Park, over the Snape Mires, up to Exelby; then on to Burneston, and Oak Tree Farm. Crossing the Leeming Lane here, hounds went very quick to Pickhill Wood, and ran into their fox near Pickhill village. One hour and twenty minutes.

This was a first-rate west to east eight mile point; and probably about thirteen to fourteen miles as hounds ran.

The river Swale was somewhat unruly this year (1881), and no doubt caused much anxiety and annoyance to riparian residents and owners.

The Master's stables at Scruton Hall, on

the 9th March became flooded, and during the evening he had to get all his horses removed, and quarter them out in adjacent farms until the flood subsided.

1881—82. On account of Major Dent not being in very robust health, his kennel huntsman, T. Perry, hunted hounds from September until the end of October, when the Master was again able to resume his duties. Early in February he had the misfortune to strain the muscles of his thigh very badly, so decided that another season he would employ a professional huntsman; and engaged Fred Holland, who was at this time first whipper-in to Lord Middleton's hounds.

This was a fairly good season, but there is nothing very remarkable in the way of points or length of runs to record.

Hounds hunted seventy-eight days, and killed twenty-three and a half brace of foxes.

On the 21st October, a staunch friend to fox-hunting passed away in the person of Mr. Mark Milbank of Thorp Perrow; who was the first Master of the "Bedale."

One reads marvellous newspaper accounts of runs nowadays, but twenty-five years ago the reporter's pen seems to have been just as nimble in its fancy.

The following is a newspaper report of a run from Uckerby, on the 2nd December.

"Drew famed Uckerby Whin which appears now to be a misnomer, as the covert consists of osiers, hazel and birch twigs, and an

undergrowth of sedgy grass.” Many lines are devoted to telling how the fox was found, and how he got as far as Lingy Moor (three fields away). Many more, to get on to Middleton-Tyas Quarry, but at last he gets his fox into the Sedbergh coverts “where hounds threaded their way among young larch, following well every twist and turn of their hunted one, and making merry music the while.”

“At Under Kneeton, hounds seemed utterly at fault, but by another cunning cast Major Dent got them on the line again, and they ran hard up to Melsonby village. Another check, another cast, and then they settled down to work in right good earnest.” Many paragraphs are devoted to getting on to Langdale Wood, and the like to Aldborough, where the scent failed.

The Master’s account of this hunt reads as under.

“Found Uckerby Whin, hunted slowly up to Middleton-Tyas Quarry, and on into Sedbergh, where we changed. Ran slowly with a wretched scent past Melsonby through Langdale Wood, and lost near Aldbrough. Hunting three hours.”

On the 18th November, the west country foxes provided two good gallops, though in each case they saved their brushes by getting to ground.

Found in Scotton Whin, up to Gandale Wood, then dropped the hill through the Park at Hauxwell, nearly to Forty Acres

Wood ; turned right-handed from here by Barden, over Barden Moor to ground in the Quarry there. A very fast thirty-five minutes.

Found in Wenlock Wood, again across to Gandale Wood, but from here turned over the allotments by Newfound-England and Waithwith ; across Badger Gill, to ground in Hudswell Scar, after a good fifty minutes.

1882—83. Hounds were out seventy-two days and killed fourteen and a half brace of foxes. There were some useful hunts this season, but nothing very much out of the ordinary.

1883—84. November 9th. Found in Streatlam Whin and ran towards Hutton Bonville, but turning from there went past Danby Wiske village up to Masterman's Plantations ; dropped the hill, and crossing the Wiske tried Annesley's earths (in the Hurworth country), these being stopped, the fox re-crossed the river and got to ground between Yafforth and Ainderby, but he was bolted and killed.

On the 23rd February there was a fine run, the latter part of it over the moor.

Found in Spennithorne Wood, and ran out towards Marriforth, then dropped the hill under Thornton Steward, towards Danby, and crossed the river Yore opposite Jervaulx Abbey ; on through Ellingstring Plantation, over Agra Moor, past Agra Wood, on to Leighton ; and hounds were run out of scent near Clint Rocks, after a good hour and twenty-five minutes.

Hounds hunted seventy-nine days and killed twenty-one brace of foxes.

Early in the year 1884, the scarcity of foxes in parts of the country was commented upon in a letter to the "Yorkshire Post;" and a somewhat heated correspondence took place. A paragraph from one of the letters seems worth preserving.

"My idea is that owners of estates who let their property are morally responsible for the tenants; and in a good hunting country like the 'Bedale,' ought as soon to think of letting an estate to people who they thought would cut down the coverts, or pull down the house, as to a man who would exterminate foxes, or try to stop hunting."

Major Dent having notified his intention to resign the Mastership of the hounds at the end of the season, a General Meeting of the Hunt was held on the 14th January, when an offer was made by Captain Garrett, 16th Lancers (of Crakehall), to hunt the country with a subscription of £1,600, and that a brother officer of his (Captain Wild) should be his huntsman. The name of Mr. W. D. Russell, of Newton House, was also mentioned as a successor to Major Dent. The country did not favour the idea of an amateur huntsman, and Mr. Russell did not come forward to take the hounds; so the appointment of a new Master remained in abeyance.

By February, matters had arranged

themselves, and Mr. George W. Elliot, whose name had been mentioned when Major Dent was elected Master, agreed to hunt the country. At a meeting of the Hunt, on the 29th April, which was presided over by the Marquess of Carmarthen, Major Dent was presented by Admiral the Honble. W. C. Carpenter with a silver tea tray and bowl, the former of which bore the following inscription.

“ Presented by the Members of the Bedale Hunt to Major H. F. Dent, on his resignation of the Mastership, in acknowledgement of his able and successful management during six seasons.”

It was at this meeting decided to acquire new Kennels. Those below the “Leases,” where hounds had been kennelled since 1859, had for some time been found small and inconvenient.

A lease was taken of the Low Street Stud Farm, together with the field called Crowdy Hill, from Mr. William Osborne, brother to that fine sportsman and Yorkshireman, Mr. John Osborne.

A word or two about this Stud Farm may be of interest, as it was the home of many famous race horses. The Stud Farm was built about 1857, by the late Mr. John Howe Osborne of Ashgill, being used as such up to the year 1878; and the following well-known horses were bred, and stood there.

Miss Agnes, g. grand-dam of Ormonde.

Agnes (by Clarion). Founder of the

“ Agnes ” family.

Lady Alice (1855) grand-dam of St. Gatien.
 Romping Girl. Ran dead heat with
 Achievement for second place in
 the Oaks, 1867.

Red Eagle. Winner of the Cambridgeshire.
 Controversy. Winner of the Lincoln
 Handicap.

Gaily. Winner of the Lincoln Handicap.

The Cure, Colsterdale, and the Miner—one
 of the few horses that ever beat Blair Athol
 —were among the stallions that stood at the
 Farm.

Early in March, 1881, a discussion arose
 as to the correct boundary of the Bedale
 and Hurworth countries, in the very north
 east corner of the Hunt.

The Hurworth claimed as their south
 and western boundaries in this locality the
 river Wiske, from Smeaton Bridge up to
 what is now Frigerdale Wood on the south ;
 from there up Stone Riggs lane to the
 branch road leading to Dalton-on-Tees, on
 the west. The Bedale maintained that the
 boundary was the main road from North-
 allerton to Darlington, over Smeaton Bridge,
 past Smeaton village, by High and Low
 Entercommon, to the branch road above
 mentioned, leading to Dalton-on-Tees. The
 matter was referred to two arbitrators and
 an umpire.

Colonel George J. Scurfield was named
 for the Hurworth, Mr. John B. Booth for
 the Bedale.

Mr. John L. Wharton, of Bramham, near

Tadcaster, was mutually agreed upon as umpire—his decision to be final.

The question appears to have excited a good deal of attention, for various reasons, and the feelings of both Hunts ran high about the matter. Much evidence was produced on both sides, and on October 3rd, 1881, Mr. J. L. Wharton gave his award in the following terms.

“ Bramham, Tadcaster,
3rd October, 1881.

Having examined the various maps, evidence, and letters submitted to me ; I am of opinion that the boundary line of the two Hunts lies on the road leading from Northallerton to Darlington, between Smeaton Bridge and Entercommon. It is obvious that the boundary of the two Hunts must have been well ascertained long prior to the existence of the Railway.*

Before I close this chapter, I must relate three stories concerning Major Dent, which are exactly typical of him.

During the first season he had the hounds, they ran across Sleningford Park, down towards Tanfield Bridge : the Park at this corner being bounded by stone walls, high, strong, and very securely coped, with a good big drop on the landing side. Major Dent

* This remark is made as the Hurworth rather suggested the N.E.R. as the original Western boundary.

was cantering down to this corner, when two or three people called to him and told him that he could not get out that way. With a look that said "Thanks, I'll ASK for your advice when I want it," he never hesitated a moment, took hold of his horse (John Peel), and jumped the wall neatly and cleanly. Colonel, the Honble. A. Cathcart, who generally has a happy remark handy, rode up to him and said "Why, Dent, you remind me of what the French General said to Lord Cardigan, after the famous cavalry charge of Balaclava: 'C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre!'"

One day his name happened to be mentioned when in conversation with a farmer, who said, "Well, he's a straight man is't Major, if iver he has o'wt to say to ye, he niver gangs round it mitch."

A rather half-hearted fox preserver wrote and told him that he had a litter of cubs in some covert on his property, and what was he to do to ensure their safety and well being. The reply was laconic—three words, but with a volume of meaning, "Leave them alone."



CHAPTER VI.

1884—1888.

GEORGE W. ELLIOT, M.P.

“Where there’s ceremony, there’s no friendship.”

It has been already mentioned that a site for the new Kennels had been decided upon. A committee was formed to carry out all the building arrangements, consisting of Mr. George Elliot, Mr. John Booth, and Mr. George B. Peirson, which soon got to work. The kennels of various other packs of hounds were inspected, plans were drawn out, and building operations quickly commenced.

The whole of the work was carried out locally, and the leading of materials required was done free by farmers in the neighbourhood; some, who through living at a distance, had not been asked to assist, felt much aggrieved that they had not had a finger in the “brick and mortar” pie.

Mr. John Booth constituted himself Clerk of the Works, and used to spend hours daily watching every detail. He would often look in on his way home from hunting, perhaps wet through; and it is to be feared

that his death was caused by a chill caught when thus employed, on "a labour of love."

1884—85. Mr. Elliot retained Fred Holland as his huntsman, but engaged two new whippers-in, C. Beames and W. Iliffe.

Hounds hunted eighty-six days, and killed twenty-six brace of foxes.

Two runs during this season are worth mention.

26th December. Found at Hutton Bonville, and ran due east to Deighton; turning from here, the fox came back to Hutton Bonville, ran down to Danby Wiske village, then skirting the Wiske, on to Reedholmes covert (where three foxes were in front of hounds), up to Cowton station, then bore towards Pepper Arden, and heading north came back through Frigerdale Wood, past Smeaton Grange, and was entering Forty Acres Wood (in the Hurworth country) when hounds were stopped, after a very good hunting run of three hours.

On February 16th hounds got away on the back of a fox from Kirklington Wood (a difficult thing to manage from this big woodland); ran sharp across to Horse Close Wood, over Well Mires, crossed the Bedale and Tanfield road into Peter Wood; through Hesletts, along Tanfield Banks, crossed the river Yore near Mickley, then on by Sleningford to North Stainley village; and turning back from this point, hounds ran into their fox in Sleningford Park, after a capital gallop of one hour and twenty minutes.

From Kirklington Wood to Mickley is a five mile point, from there to North Stainley two and a half miles.

1885—86. Mr. Elliot put in a good many days this season, hounds being out ninety-five times, killing twenty-eight and a half brace of foxes. They hunted up to the 7th May, meeting on that date at Azerley, and in the previous week at Leyburn.

On October 30th there was a capital hunt. Found in Ripon Parks. Ran due south to the Palace, near Ripon, turning back from here hounds went by North Stainley and Sleningford to the river Yore, which was crossed near Mickley; then leaving the villages of Tanfield, Nosterfield, and Well, to the west, this good fox made straight for Low Park Wood, and ran on up to Thornton Watlass, where hounds were run out of scent.

November 13th provided a good gallop.

Found in Bolton Whin, ran east to Kiplin Big Wood on to Streatlam Plantation and Whin; forward to the Crow Wood at Hutton Bonville, from which the fox turned left-handed up the Wiske side to Reedholmes covert; then took a left-handed turn to the Tile Shed Plantation, and was killed in the open, close to Greenberry Farm, after a capital hunt of one hour and thirty-five minutes.

On the 23rd February, 1885, the meeting place of hounds was at the "New Kennels."

1886—87. During this season Mr. Elliot

again hunted the country uncommonly well, continuing operations up to the 25th April. Hounds were out eighty-five days and killed thirty brace of foxes.

One run alone calls for mention, which I give in the words of Mr. George Peirson, who was a participator in what he terms the first "lap."

February 19th. Hounds met at Busby Stoop. "It was a fine, bright morning and there was a biggish field out. Hounds got a good start from Bamlett's Whin, crossing the Thirsk and Topcliffe Road, then up the Cod Beck side to Dalton Whin. No time was lost there, as the fox had skirted the north end and gone straight on, and through the Thirkleby Coverts, pointing for Upsall. Hounds had not run hard till past Thirkleby, but there the pace mended, as they were evidently running up to their fox, and for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour at the foot of the hill, it looked as if they would run into him at any minute. The fox had been skirting the hill for a couple of miles as I suppose he was too blown to face it. However at last he took a left-hand turn straight up the wood, and there was nothing for it but leading blown horses up a steep bridle track. When three parts up, we could not hear a sound, and on getting out into the open at the top and looking down, we could see those who had been left at the foot of the hill, well on their way back to Thirkleby, and going like old boots. Of course it was

utterly hopeless attempting to catch them up, and a goodly number never saw a hound again that day. What had happened was—the fox had turned when half way up the hill and then made a bee line back to the breeding “earths” three or four fields west of Dalton Whin. As these are in the York country they could not dig.

I had to catch a train at Thirsk in the afternoon, where I fell in with Elliot and party; all in high feather and, of course, full of chaff. They told me the fox only escaped by the skin of his teeth, going to ground in view. Two hours and five minutes.”

1887—88. Again, Mr. Elliot did not mean the grass to grow under his feet, or his hounds to be wanting in occupation, as he managed to put in ninety-eight days hunting, closing his season earlier than in the previous years, on the 18th April, and killing twenty-two and a half brace of foxes.

At the end of this season, owing to increasing pressure of his Parliamentary duties, Mr. Elliot gave up the hounds. His four seasons at the head of affairs had been very successful ones, and he had kept the “tam-bourine a-rolling” not only as regards sport, but festivities and fun generally.

In February, 1888, a question arose with the Hurworth (through the lifting of a litter of cubs) as to the correct Hunt boundary between Northallerton and South Otterington.

The Bedale claimed as their eastern boun-

dary, the main road from Northallerton to Thirsk, via Brawith Hall and Thornton-le-Street. The Hurworth maintained that the eastern boundary of the Bedale was the river Wiske, from Ainderby Steeple bridge to South Otterington.

The matter was eventually referred to the Master of Foxhounds' Association, and their award was as follows.

“ M. F. H. Association,
Tattersalls,
London, S.W.

May 18th, 1889.

The Committee, having carefully considered the case submitted by the Hurworth and Bedale Hunts, are *unanimously of opinion* that the river Wiske, and not the High Road, is the boundary between the two Hunts from Northallerton to South Otterington.

Signed.

Leconfield.
Beaufort.
Tredegar.
Ralph Nevill.
E. Park Yates.



CHAPTER VII.

1888—96.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM P. WILSON-TODD.

“Are there no p'int's on which grey experience can show the beacon lights to 'ot youth and indiscretion? Assuredly there are!”—*Surtees*.

In October, 1888, a most staunch friend to, and preserver of, foxes joined the “great majority” — Mr. J. R. Hildyard, of Hutton Bonville. As will be realised by those who have read the previous pages, his coverts at Hutton Bonville and Streatlam always held a fox of the right sort: and sure sign of a good friend to the species, foxes from all sides were constantly running through, or past both places. His mantle has descended on to most worthy shoulders, and his son, Mr. John A. Hildyard (the best of sportsmen), most loyally upholds his father's traditions.

1888—89. Captain Wilson-Todd retained the services of Fred Holland as his huntsman, and had some very good sport during the time he was Master; more especially in the Friday country, where there used constantly to be some very quick half-hours

and forty minutes. He was also lucky in having a capital stock of foxes at Wenlock Wood and Whin, as also at Thornhills' Whin; from all of which places he had many good gallops. I much regret to say that this is no longer the case as regards Wenlock Wood, and I think I have only seen about three foxes found there in twelve years.

On the 14th November, meeting at Sion Hill, there was a good hunt from Solberg in the afternoon. Found at once and ran down to the Swale, but the fox turned away from the river, and bore right-handed nearly up to Ainderby Steeple; leaving this village on the right, he went on up to Morton Bridge, crossed the Bedale and Northallerton road, up to Thrintoft village, from there on to Langton Hall, opposite which he went over the river; and bearing first of all towards Kirkby Fleetham, finally swung round into Scruton Big Wood, where hounds killed him, after one hour and thirty minutes.

On the 15th March, having done nothing much about Kiplin, Cowton, and Uckerby; a good fox was found in Thrintoft Whin, which ran down to Yafforth, then left-handed over Danby Hill to Streatlam, from here across to Danby Wiske village, over the Wiske, up to and through the Hutton Bonville coverts, and from there to the Smeaton coverts; where hounds were run out of scent, after a good hunt of an hour and forty minutes.

1889—90. The following, on October 14th, must have been a fine gallop, but only a few were lucky enough to see it : Captain David Lascelles, Mr. Edward Lascelles, Mr. Bairstow, and Holland. The Master was unfortunately on foot in the covert when hounds went away, and could not get to them. Found in the covert by Exelby Brickyards and ran across by the Reeds Plantation, over Snape Mires towards Horse Close Wood ; passed between that and the Low Wood at Camp Hill, past Chaplin's Whin, and leaving Thornborough just on the east, ran by Rushwood into the Norton Conyers coverts ; through them down to the river Yore, which the fox crossed, and on towards Ripon Parks Whin, short of which hounds were stopped, as there was a litter of cubs there, which it was not desirable to disturb this day.

This was a ten mile point, and hounds were running one hour and a quarter.

Mr. Edward Lascelles, who had been resident in Queensland for a long time, was heard to remark during this gallop, " By God, this is better than kangaroo hunting."

On the 6th December there was a very good gallop, but an unsatisfactory ending, as hounds had to be stopped on account of darkness.

Met at Kiplin. Found the second fox in Crosshills Plantation, and ran very quickly across to Cowton Whin, through this, over Atlay Hill to Pepper Arden Hall ; from here the fox turned south to Streatlam

Plantation, through this and then direct to Thrintoft Whin; after a turn in the covert, he went away about half a mile towards the village of Thrintoft, then turned back, past the Whin covert, and on towards Masterman's Plantation, where hounds had to be stopped.

The last week in January, and the month of February, is the time when foxes make real good points; and there was one this season which will long be remembered.

On February the 10th, hounds met at Thorp Perrow. Found at once in the Banks and ran by Warreners Bottom, and the top of the Belts towards Aldburgh; the fox turned left-handed from here, and passing on the east side of Nosterfield village, ran across by Chaplin's Whin and Horse Close Wood into Low Park Wood—time up to this point thirty-five minutes. Here hounds changed on to another fox, although there was no actual pause in the run, and they went over Watlass Moor, straight to the river Yore at Clifton Castle; a little below which, the fox crossed and went on past High Mains, on the north side of Low Ellington, past the south side of Eelmire Wood, through the top end of Ellington Firth, and then rose the hill by the Swiss Cottage, near Grey Yard Plantation; across to, and on the low side of, Witton Fell nearly up to Braithwaite Hall. From here he turned rather left-handed towards the old coalpits on Braithwaite Moor, over this (the first moorland touched) and part of Caldbergh Moor to

East Scrafton Moor ; where this fine gallop came to an end. Hounds and horses were all beat, and the huntsman had not been able to get as far as this. Eleven people and nine couples of hounds got to this point, which is thirteen miles absolutely due west from Horse Close Wood, this being the most easterly place touched in the run. After leaving Low Park Wood, hounds ran at a tremendous pace as far as Witton Fell, after which it somewhat slackened. Hounds were taken to Leyburn, and returned to kennel by train from there.

This good fox had not got into very hospitable quarters, as it was reported that, the same afternoon, "One fatal shot proclaimed that he was not." How sad an end ! !

The following verses appeared in Baily's Magazine, in a poem called "A Hill Fox," by Mr. W. H. Olgvie, and with the Editor's kind permission, I include a few of them ; so very descriptive of this stout fox, and of the gallop.

" What had brought him so far
 From the glidder and scar
 And the moss where the rivulets croon ?
 Did he cross on a raid ?
 Or, like man to a maid
 For a vixen that cried to the moon ?
 There are foxes that swing
 With the wind on its wing,
 There are foxes in circles that tread ;
 But he chose his bold line
 Where the hill-tops ashine
 Touched the shadows in which he was bred !

'Tis a short enough start,
 But a hill-fox's heart
 Never quails when the peaks are in view ;
 Down the valley he dips,
 Through the grey river slips,
 With his mask to the Moors so blue !

There's the crash of a rail
 As the crowd leaves the vale
 And sweeps out on the heath of the hill,
 And it's slow they must creep
 Up the edge of the steep ;
 But the bitches are galloping still !

Over hill top and slope
 Still we stumble and grope
 Through the tussocks where sheep drains are
 blind ;
 And the men that have led
 Are gone further ahead,
 And the slow ones drop further behind.

And the little hill-fox
 Threads his way through the rocks
 Where the burn makes a lather of foam ;
 Does he laugh at us now
 As he climbs the last brow
 That leads straight to the haven of home ?

1890—91. On the 5th December there was a good point and gallop. Found in Streatlam Whin; ran very fast up to Langton village, crossed the river Swale, passed Kirkby Fleetham, and leaving Fencote on the left, went over the North Road to ground in Goskin's Wood. One hour and fifteen minutes.

On the 18th February, after killing a fox from Devonshire Wood, at Sharow, hounds hit the line of another near Hutton Conyers,

and worked up to him in the Withernewick coverts. From here they ran very quickly to Norton Conyers, crossed the river Yore, on to Ripon Parks, through this covert across by Spring Wood to Azerley; from which point he turned left-handed, and was marked to ground close to Studley Royal, after a quick hour and five minutes.

1891—92. On the 9th November there was a specially quick gallop, with a satisfactory ending. Found in Kirklington Wood, broke away on the north side towards Carthorpe, then at a great pace across by Burneston, over the Leeming Lane, direct to Gatenby Wood; through that, and killed in the open, close to Mr. Gothorpe's house at Gatenby, a point of four miles in thirty-five minutes. This particular piece of the country afforded some good sport at this time, as on the 14th December there was another fast gallop, with blood.

Found in Low Park Whin, and ran over Well Bottoms towards Nosterfield, the fox turned from here, by Langwith, into Kirklington Wood; from there across the Leeming Lane direct to Pickhill village, from which he turned right-handed, ran along the Swale pastures under Holme Whin, up to Colonel I'Anson's house at Howe; in the garden of which hounds ran into him, after a capital gallop of one hour and fifteen minutes.

On the 10th February there was a fine hunt from Swinton, over a sporting country.

Found in Lord Masham's Whin, and ran

through Ellington Firth to Witton Fell; turned back from here, and ran on the edge of the Moor past the west side of Ellingstring Plantation, by High Healey Cote, past Fearby Low Moor, on the west side of Swinton Park, over Nutwith Common into Hackfall, where the fox was viewed by Captain Wilson-Todd, dead beat. Unfortunately he managed to get to ground in the rocks, after a capital hour and a half. Hounds were then obliged to go home, as the second horses did not turn up, having probably been put out by the sudden turn from Witton Fell.

The following is a pleasing record of foxes found in one day, late on in the season (30th March). A brace at Sion Hill, a leash at Thirsk Carr, a brace in the Thirsk Hall coverts, a brace at Thornton-le-Street, one fox in Vicars Moor. Two foxes were killed, and two were marked to ground.

It is not often when once a fox gets near to Downholme Scar, that he has to pay the penalty (as there are innumerable places in the rocks which it is impossible to stop), but on the 8th of April this took place.

Found in the Constable Burton coverts, and after running in the woods for some time broke out on the west side towards Bellerby, on towards Half-penny House, then over the moors in the direction of Stainton, by Downholme village for the Scar; half a mile short of which hounds ran into their fox. One hour and forty minutes.

1892—93. After being stopped by frost

for four weeks, there were three successive days of good sport.

On the 20th January met at Cowton Station. Found in the New Whin at Hutton Bonville, and ran by the Old Whin up to the Fox Covert; over the Northallerton and Darlington road, by Lovesome Hill towards Brompton. The fox turned north from near here, and ran by Deighton to Appleton Wiske, over the Wiske, through Hornby Whin, out towards High Worsall; being headed short of this place he turned back, and was killed in the Whin after a very good gallop of an hour.

On the 21st January hounds met at Constable Burton. They found at once, and ran very fast to within one field of Spennithorne Wood, turned left-handed from here between Croft Wood and Finghall, as if for Wild Wood. Near Finghall village the fox bore right-handed towards Marri-forth, and leaving this covert on the left, went on to Danby-on-Yore, and eventually making his first point good, got to ground in Spennithorne Wood, after a quick gallop of one hour.

On the 23rd January hounds met at Kirklington village. A fox found in Kirklington Wood was killed almost at once. A second was found in Horse Close Wood, and ran across to Norton Conyers, where he got to ground—twenty-five minutes.

Hounds then went to Newton House, where a leash of foxes were on foot in Gatenby

Wood. Ten couples of hounds got away with one, and racing down the Swale Pastures accounted for theirs, on the banks of the river. The remainder of the pack went away with another fox to the west. Over the Leeming Lane, up to Burneston ; from here, leaving Carthorpe on the right to Kirklington, then on by Howgrave and Thornborough nearly up to the village of Nosterfield ; from which he turned right-handed over Well Bottoms, under Warreners Wood, and was lost in the Banks at Thorp Perrow after a very quick run of one hour and ten minutes.

1893—94. There was a good day's sport in the West country on November the 13th.

Found in Thornhills Whin. Ran up to Scotton, then with a right-handed turn past the west side of Tunstall Whin, to Hauxwell village. Being headed here, the fox turned east again, and passing by Beggarmire Wood went into Wild Wood ; through this, past Diamond Hill to the Hornby Castle coverts. As they were to be shot next day, hounds were stopped. A second fox was found in the Whinney Gill south of Scotton Hall, which ran due north into the coverts at Hipswell, then turned west, up Badger Gill, and passing over Waithwith Common reached Wenlock Wood. He did not dwell here, but went straight across to Thornhills Whin, made a loop back from there up to Scotton, and then set his head straight for what must have been his original destination, Hauxwell ; where, owing to darkness, hounds

had to be stopped. This was a good hunt of an hour and fifteen minutes.

On the 6th December hounds met at Studley Royal. Found a fox at once, ran across to Azerley in twenty minutes, and killed.

Found in the Old Whin at Ripon Parks, and ran hard by North Stainley, Sleningford Park and Mickley, into Hackfall. The fox ran nearly the length of this large covert, then crossed the river Yore, leaving Aldburgh Hall on the left, into Heslett Wood; through this to Tanfield village, over the river again, across Sleningford Park, and owing to darkness hounds were stopped near Potgate, after a real sporting hunt of an hour and forty minutes.

1894—95. There is no run of any special merit to record for this season.

1895—96. On the 18th December, 1895, there was a fine gallop from Thornton-le-Street.

Found in the Big Wood there; ran across the Park, over the Thirsk and Northallerton road, past Brawith Hall, which was left on the east, up to Crosby Grange. From here hounds ran parallel to, on the west side of the Cod Beck, pointing for Cotcliffe Bank. Short of this the fox turned back, and ran to the north of Kepwick Lime Kilns, crossed the tramway line at Mill Hill, and bearing left-handed, was marked to ground in Kepwick Quarry, after a very quick hour and thirty-five minutes.

At the end of this season, Captain Wilson-Todd gave up the hounds, having shown some excellent sport for eight years. Toward the latter end of his Mastership, the supply of foxes had got below the average, and he consequently had a good many very disappointing days.

He took great interest in the breeding of hounds; and as will be seen in Appendix B, it was during the second year of his Mastership that the Bedale bitches commenced—in some earnest—their maternal duties.

In the spring of 1895, he bought the whole of the Brocklesby dog whelps; about thirty couples being delivered at the Bedale Kennels and sent to “Quarters.” It was a sporting purchase, but the result was poor; as they did not turn out very well, and only five and a half couples were included in the entry for 1896.

Two good looking dogs, ‘Hengist’ and ‘Hotspur’ were used, but their progeny did not stay very long in the kennel.

As Captain Wilson-Todd gave up the Hounds in the spring of 1896, the following gentlemen purchased these Brocklesby hounds from him, and presented them to the country.

Admiral The Honble. W. C. Carpenter, The Honble. S. C. Lister, Sir George Elliot, Bart, and Major W. H. Fife.

The hard winter of 1894—95 will long be remembered by all; but by none more keenly than by those who hunt the fox, as for about

ten weeks they found "their occupation gone." Since the muscles of the body could not be exercised on a horse, some wag of wit exercised his brains with the pen; and the following amusing brochure on the sad want of employment for those accustomed to hunt with the Bedale, was anonymously produced in the country.

Without Prejudice.

THE VERY SELECT COMMITTEE ON LABOUR.

THE COMMISSIONERS appointed to enquire into the distress, sat under the presidency of SIR JOHN LAWSON, BART., at the Black Swan Hotel, Bedale, on Tuesday, 26th February, 1895. Being Market day the proceedings excited the liveliest interest. A melancholy gaiety was given to the scene by the number of red coats worn, but this feeling wore off as the wan and dejected appearance of these gallant sportsmen met our eye, they had evidently suffered severely and felt their position keenly; the sit of their costumes hardly gave evidence of the best sartorial efforts of their respective snips.

On the appearance of the Chairman, who by the way is, we hear, no relation to Sir Wilfred Lawson, an attempt at a cheer was made, which was courteously and feelingly acknowledged. Sir John is, we may add, president of "The Anti-Humbug Society."

CAPTAIN WILSON-TODD said he was Master of the Bedale Hounds, and in consequence kept a large stud of horses, innumerable dogs, and a great many servants, the whole of which, including himself, were now thrown

136 THE BEDALE HOUNDS, 1832-1908

out of work and in a very distressful condition. How they could exist much longer without relief he was unable to say.

On being asked what steps he had taken to secure employment, said he had been to Newmarket in hopes of gaining admittance into the stables, and finding the winner of the Grand National. On another occasion he had attended a pigeon shoot, with the object of picking up a little money, but was not successful owing to an outsider winning, against whom he had fielded heavily. Did not think much of pigeon shoots as a sport or means of livelihood, all he got out of it was a few frozen pigeons.

Witness then began to use abusive language against the weather, and was ordered to withdraw.

CAPTAIN DAVID A. G. LASCELLES said he acted as Secretary to the Bedale Hunt, and had been out of employment for nine weeks, during which time he had been much annoyed by many poultry claims which he was quite unable to pay. He owned a considerable number of horses, and he regularly attended every meet of the Bedale Hounds, and always stayed out till the hounds went home, and was therefore in regular employment until frozen out.

On being asked what steps he had taken to obtain work, said he had spent most of his time in Bedale Market Place, discussing the situation with his fellow workmen and watching the weathercock. He had made two excursions into the West-country on hearing that work was to be obtained, in which he was to a certain extent successful, getting two engagements to play hockey.

FRED HOLLAND said he acted in the capacity of Huntsman, and corroborated the evidence of The Master. Said his duties as huntsman principally were to say—"Yoi Yover" and "Pull up," to keep his hounds as far away as possible from the members of the Hunt, and to please everybody. On being asked what steps he intended taking to sustain himself and his large family, remarked, "By Gow, I don't know. I never seed nothing like this afore."

EDWARD PARKER, who appeared wearing a broad smile, said he was First Whip. His duties were to ride anything, through anything or over anything, and liked it. Could do with more work, his duties being very light.

E. H. COURAGE. This applicant appeared in fairly good condition, said he had heard of the great distress, but owing to partial employment he had not suffered so severely as the rest. His employment consisted in stopping up his earths, the foxes having all taken to living in his Sunday Trees. He had also been busy running after his young stock to keep them warm, and had spent much time trying to avoid his stuffed birds, one of which especially caused him great pain and annoyance, and he still bore the marks of the animal's attack.

SIR GEORGE ELLIOT, BART., M.P., said he represented the heavy weights, was also a member of Parliament, could not exactly define the limits of his constituency, but the Bedale, Zetland, and Hurworth Hounds hunted the district. Knew that when the House was sitting the candle was lit in the Victoria Tower. Had a large stud of horses but could not feed them much longer; owing to his weight had to give large prices for them. Had made every endeavour to find employment without success.

GEORGE B. PEIRSON. The appearance of this applicant caused considerable amusement as he certainly seemed in good condition. He retired amidst loud laughter, followed by several members on the chance of getting a drink, or selling a horse. Mr. Peirson is a Land Agent.

HUGH MAUGHAN, who really appeared in a very enfeebled condition, said he had three horses which he was quite unable to sustain in proper condition. Did very well when he had his father's corn bin handy, but had now been obliged to remove them all to Bedale.

On being asked what remedies he had taken, said he had attended every ball in the neighbourhood on the chance of there being a supper. This seemed satisfactory to the Chairman, who promised to consider his

case favourably, as he had done the same in his younger days.

Witness said he had brought his fiddle with him but had been stopped by the police. Sir John suggested that as he had also brought his 'cello they should play a duet, which was agreed to.

It transpired that this applicant was also a Solicitor.

SIMON CONYERS SCROPE said he was in the habit of hunting whenever he had an opportunity. Only possessed one horse, which was well known in the West country for his personal appearance and the size of his feet, but both horse and owner had a great objection to the big stells in the Friday country. Often obliged to ride very long distances to the meet. Had for several years occupied a farm, under his father, but the principal produce being weeds he was seldom able to pay any rent.

He had tried hockey as a means of livelihood, and had on one occasion nearly missed a valuable engagement owing to the sudden change of the locality. Considered himself a good "back," being able to withstand the most severe shocks without inconvenience.

On being further examined, the applicant entered into a violent tirade against the Master and management of the Hunt, especially of the way in which the West-country was hunted, but the Chairman finding that this was a purely personal question promptly ordered his removal.

HARRY ROUSE said he was a member of the Bedale Hunt. Had been employed regularly for many years, but for the last nine weeks had been entirely out of work, and had suffered severely in consequence. Had lately been taking great interest in the arrangements of the workhouse, and had tried to induce the Guardians to allow the inmates fish and game every day when in season. On being further interrogated he said he had done this in case he had to remove there if this distress continued. On being asked what he had done to obtain employment, he said he had most days walked into Bedale from Firby, and frequented the Market Place. He had noticed many members of the Hunt wandering

about in the town and along the roads, Had often met the Secretary, who had asked him regularly—"What are we to do *now*?" Had replied—"What *are* we to do now? What can we do, we have done everything," but no result of importance had occurred. Had been up to London to see if anything could be done there, but owing to the number of people in the same straits as himself had not been able to pick up anything very good. Hoped to soon be in a position to resume work now the Spring was coming on, and he could make a day out.

W. L. CHRISTIE ("Christie, Bedale") said he was a member of the Bedale Hunt, and had been thrown out of work for nine weeks. Was unable to say how many horses he had, but would gladly have sent some to the kennels, but was afraid they would disagree with the hounds. Had on occasions frequented Bedale Market Place and seen much distress. Was very badly off himself, and wished to reduce his establishment, but was obliged to keep his servants on as he couldn't pay them off. Asked what means he had taken to obtain work, said he had lived on his relations and friends as much as possible. Had on two occasions attended pigeon shoots, where he had done fairly well, so thought he would get up one himself and make a bit more. However, the other shooters said it was a plant, so kicked over the table and refused to pay, and drank all the whisky. Questioned further, said he thought pigeon shooting might be made to pay under favourable circumstances, but preferred laying one of his own horses as a surer means of making a bit.

TEASDALE HUTCHINSON said he was a very hard rider; always rode the best horses; had a mare "the best in England," which was the very thing for the Chairman. Had not crabbed her, and said she had a spavin when he bought her. Never rode too near hounds, and had never heard any complaints about his riding, fact was that he was so far in front that he could not hear what Holland said. Preferred Point to Point races to hunting. Thought barbed wire would do a lot of harm.

Said he kept his horses on wheat and barley straw. Agricultural depression was what he was most interested in. Rents must be reduced. Was ordered to withdraw.

Other applicants were R. O. HARRILD, W. HARRILD, W. P. GILL, T. G. WALKER, and T. RILEY, who all looked in a woe-begone condition. They said they had on one occasion heard of something to do at York, but it did not turn out successful. They had been up and down the country looking for employment but found it harder to get every day. While the Chairman's attention was momentarily engaged, one of them produced a pack of cards and began dealing out a Poker hand all round, but they were promptly removed from court in an excited condition. R. O. Harrild seemed particularly annoyed, and it turned out afterwards that he had four aces.

The members then dispersed, and returned to their homes to dig sticks into the ground and see what the glass was doing.

The affairs of the old "Raby Hunt Bedale Club," established in 1816, seem rather to have languished; and during Captain Wilson-Todd's Mastership, a revision of the rules, bringing matters more up to date, took place. The following, being those passed at a meeting of the members of the Hunt.

RULES OF THE "BEDALE HUNT CLUB."

1. The Club to be called the Bedale Hunt Club.
2. The affairs of the Club to be managed by a Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Hunt. The

Master, and Honorary Secretary to be ex-officio members of this Committee; with six other members of the Hunt, one of whom should retire annually. The following to form the first Committee.

Captain W. P. Wilson-Todd, M.F.H.,
President.

Admiral The Honble. W. C. Carpenter.

Sir Henry Beresford-Peirse, Bart.

W. D. Russell, Esq.

John A. Hildyard, Esq.

Sir Frederick Milbank, Bart.

The Marquess of Carmarthen.

Captain D. A. Lascelles,

Hon. Secretary.

3. The Club to consist of Life and Visitor members.

Life members—to be eligible, shall be landowners and their sons, also gentlemen renting estates or houses for a period of not less than five years, in the district hunted by the Bedale hounds; the membership of the latter to terminate on their leaving the Bedale country, unless specially allowed to continue their membership by a resolution of the Club Committee.

Visitor members are eligible, provided they have been residents in the country for not less than three consecutive seasons, and have subscribed not less than £15 per annum to the benefit of

the Hunt. Their membership to cease on leaving the Bedale country, unless specially allowed to continue their membership by resolution of the Club Committee.

4. All members to be elected by a majority of the Club Committee.
5. Only members of the Club allowed to wear the Bedale Hunt coat and button.
6. There is to be at least one General Meeting of members of the Club, between November 1st and Catterick Races every year.

There was some discussion as to what the colour of the collar and facings of the evening coat should be.

The matter was put to the vote, and the following verses were written by a poetically inclined member, in answer to a circular letter on the subject.

“ Dear David, your circular asks me to vote
On a question of vital importance :—the coat
Which our members shall wear when the “ Bedale ”
they follow
And yearn for a hark of your musical holloa.

For the coat in itself—no more on that head,
As a fox-hunter’s colour will always be red.
But the point in dispute seems the colour of collar
We shall wear of a night, when our dinners we
swallow.

A motion is made that we shall go back
To the old “ Raby ” days ; and the collar be black.
An amendment is moved, by whom ’tis not said,
That the coat and the collar alike, shall be red.

The motion is put, so, I'll as you advise
 Join the party which votes with the " Raby "
 black " ayes "
 For the rest of the Hunt ; I can scarcely suppose
 That many will go with the common red " noes."

It is believed that these rules are still in force, as there is no record of their having been cancelled or amended at any General Meeting of the Hunt ; which would appear to be necessary, as they were originally passed at such a Meeting.

It is somewhat difficult now-a-days to get people together, but I think it would be a capital thing if the Hunt Club was not merely one in name and uniform, but one in deed ; and that once a year at least, a dinner should be held in conformity with the principle laid down by Lord Darlington, when he established his Hunt Club in the Badsworth country, at Ferrybridge. " That sportsmen should meet together pretty often to discuss their sport, the preservation of foxes, the making of coverts, and anything likely to improve the country from a fox-hunting point of view."

Man is venal, but it is wonderful what a cheery dinner, good company, and a glass or two of the Foxhunter's beverage will do in the way of smoothing difficulties, enlisting sympathy, recruiting keenness, and sustaining flagging ardour.

Writing of Hunt Clubs, reminds me of one that has, I daresay, been almost forgotten ; but which in its day was a most prosperous

and go-ahead community. It was called the "York Union Hunt Club," and consisted of members from all the Hunts in Yorkshire.* These were about three hundred, and the subscription was three guineas a year. It was started in 1835, and prospered well till about 1856, when the annual Race Meeting connected with it dropped out; and as a Club, after this date, it rather languished. It held each year in York, a week of more or less general festivities. There were two days racing, a Hunt ball, and one, if not two other dances.

The following are the names of the principal races which were run each year.

"The Club Gold Cup." "The Union Club Stakes." "The Ladies Plate" (a handicap, to which was generally added a silver tea service, subscribed for by the Ladies connected with the Club). "The Farmer's and Tradesman's Stakes." "The Champagne Stakes," and the "York October Race Club Stakes."

My father and my uncles regularly ran horses at this Meeting, and the former was fairly lucky in his attempts; as he ran second for the Gold Cup in 1835, with a mare called Jewess, won a travelling clock and stand (race not mentioned), in 1839, with a horse called Slyfellow. Won the Gold Cup in 1843, with a horse called Lingcropper,

* Vyner in his 'Notitia Venatica,' states the number was thirteen.

ridden by Captain Oliver ; and in 1844, his Ranger was beaten half a length for the Gold Cup by Mr. B. B. Thompson's The Hawk. Mr. Henry S. Thompson, the father of Mr. George S. Thompson (of Moorlands, and latterly of Newbuilding, Thirsk), was the prime mover in all the affairs of the Club, sporting and festive, and the Thompson family generally carried off a good many of the racing trophies. When the Club race meeting was abandoned in 1856, it gave £100 to be run for at the York Spring Meeting, for hunters ; and Mr. George S. Thompson rode the winner of the last race held under these conditions. So it seems quite appropriate that a Thompson should figure strong, at the start and finish of this Club's racing affairs.

The Club had a button with a very pretty cypher monogram of Y.U.H.C. upon it.

CHAPTER VII.

1896—1898.

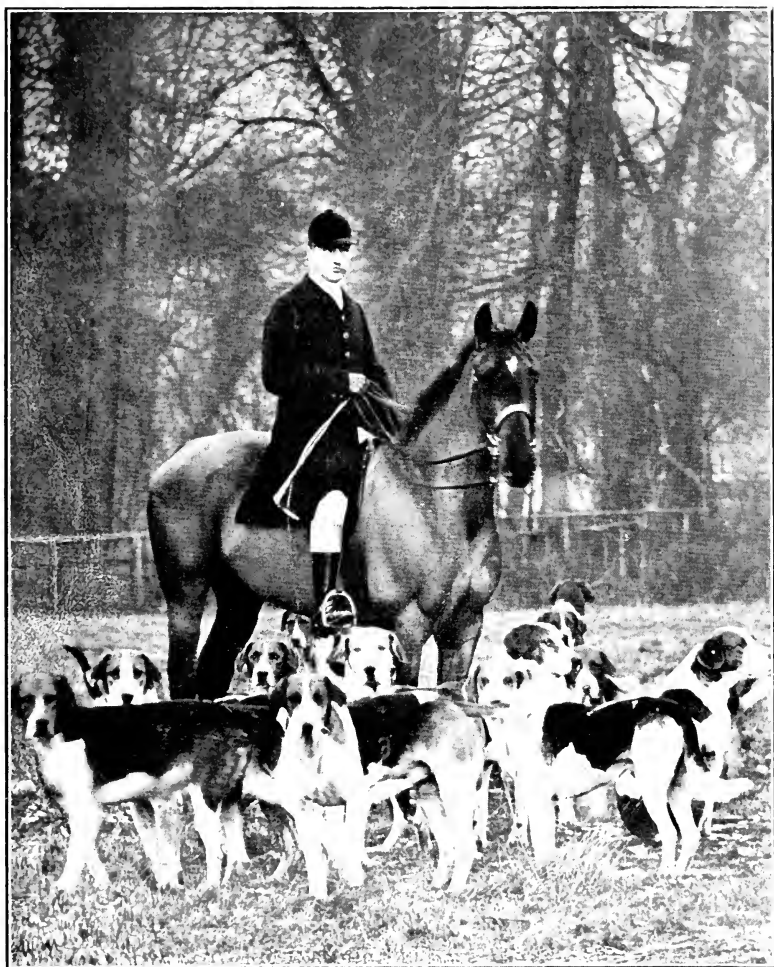
MAJOR HENRY F. DENT

(SECOND MASTERSHIP).

Once again the country had to look outside its own border for a Master to succeed Captain Wilson-Todd, and was lucky enough to secure the services of Major Dent, who was then resident at his own place, Menethorpe, near Malton.

Major Dent had always a great fondness for the Bedale country, and it was, I think, with much pleasure that he came once more to preside over our sporting destinies. He was undoubtedly a first-rate person for the position, as he knew all about the business of an M.F.H., was thoroughly conversant with the country, the covert, and land owners, as also the farmers; was a fine horseman, and devoted to fox-hunting. During the two seasons he kept the hounds, the sport was generally good, and there were some first-rate gallops, of which a few instances will be given.

1896—97. Early in November of this



year, the whole fox-hunting world had to deplore the loss of one of its most venerated and honoured members, Mr. George Lane-Fox, of Bramham ; who passed away in his eighty-sixth year, having been Master of the Bramham Moor Hounds for forty-eight years. He was so well known to all, that little need be said here concerning him, except to remark that by his death we lost one of the old school of Masters of Hounds ; and a fine type of the English country gentleman. To regulate the large and mixed "fields" which from the West Riding towns used to swell the meets of the Bramham, was no easy task ; but his caustic satire, not un-mixed with a good deal of humour, was quite equal to the occasion. He may have been severe at times, but whatever he said was in the interest of sport—for the greater number.

Major Dent retained his old servant, Fred Holland, as his huntsman, and E. Parker as first whipper-in.

15th January. Although there was no great point, and the fox turned a bit, yet the following was a good hunt ; and was, I recollect, very hard on horses, as the strong land rode very heavy. Found in Reedholmes end of Pepper Arden Bottoms, away at once due north, over Cockleberry Farm to Dalton Whin (in Lord Zetland's country), which was left on the east, then bore left-handed through the Halnaby coverts, past the Hall, and still left-handed ran

through Church Whin, past the Quarry at Middleton-Tyas, over the Leeming Lane up to Scotch Corner, into the Sedbury coverts; out on the west side, then still bearing left-handed, ran parallel to Gilling Beck nearly up to Skeeby village; turning from which place the fox bore north again, and finally got to ground in an old stone quarry, near Morris Grange. One hour and a half.

19th February. Hounds met at Langton Hall, and there was a very large "field": Lord Zetland's, Lord Middleton's, The York and Ainsty, the Bramham and the Hurworth Hunts all being represented; needless to say all were on the ride, and as Pepper Arden Stell twice came in the way, there were some wet jackets.

Found in Wallace's Plantation, ran sharp down to Danby Wiske village, crossed the Wiske, up to Hutton Bonville Hall; past that, pointing for Birkby; but after running a short distance in that direction, re-crossed the Wiske and went to Reedholmes covert; ran straight through this and parallel to the Wiske, past Pepper Arden Bottoms, across the east end of the Park, and headed as if for North Cowton village; before reaching here the fox made a turn to the right, crossed the Hunt boundary road, and the Richmond and Darlington railway line to Dalton Junction. Leaving this on the right, he bore on northwards up to the Eryholme and Dalton cross roads. Here there was a slight check, but almost before hounds could be

cast, there was a holloa near Dalton Banks, and hounds quickly picking up the line marked their fox to ground in the main "earth" there. One hour and twenty minutes up to the check, and about ten minutes more to ground. This was a seven and a half mile point, and a capital gallop.

24th February provided a most excellent hunt over a fine line of country, chiefly in the Hurworth, but finishing in the Bilsdale.

An outlying fox was found on the east side of the coverts at Wood End, which ran direct to Thornton-le-Moor, past the east end of the village, due north to Thornton-le-Beans, and on to Crosby Cote; passing through a small covert here, he turned eastward and faced the hill, through the south end of Sigston Wood; then bore off to the right, and passing under Over Siltan, turned southwards again; and leaving the monument to Mr. Warner, near Kepwick, on the left, turned to the village of Cowesby, where he was lost. I have not, unfortunately, recorded the time of this gallop. As hounds ran, it would be twelve to thirteen miles, and they carried a fine head almost the whole of the run.

It is possible that we changed foxes in Sigston Wood, as after that point, the scent was not quite so good as it had been.

On the 12th March, there was a good day's sport in the north-west country.

After a good hunt in the morning of an hour and a quarter, from Brough (the fox

eventually being drowned in the Swale near Catterick Bridge, when trying to cross the river which was in heavy flood), hounds found in Thornhills Whin, and ran quickly across to Kennel Whin. From here he turned back through Sandholes Whin, past Arrathorne, and skirting Thornhills Whin went by the end of Black Rigg on to Wenlock Wood; through this by Newfound-England to Laver Gill Quarry. On Barden Moor there was a slight check, but hounds were soon going again, and crossing the Halfpenny House road, sank the hill, leaving Barden village to the left, through the west end of Forty Acres Wood, across into Givendale Wood. Here he doubled short back and passing by the end of Wham Wood, headed back for the place where he was found. Near Garriston village, a very heavy storm of sleet came on, and hounds could make no more of him. This was an excellent hunt of two and a half hours, over a fine wild piece of country.

1897—98. On the 3rd December there was, late in the afternoon, a very quick forty-five minutes from Tunstall Whin, of which B. Champion (then Lord Zetland's huntsman) saw quite the best.

Found at once, broke away on the east side towards the village of Tunstall, then bore left-handed nearly up to Brough Hall, from there left-handed by Scotton village, past the Old Whin at Scotton, to the west of Thornhills Whin, down towards Hunton, as

if Wild Wood was his point ; being headed on the Hauxwell and Hunton road, he turned past Arrathorne, into Claypits covert at Hornby ; and as the coverts there were to be shot next day, hounds were stopped. Up to the check, hounds never dwelt a moment, and one had to gallop hard the whole time.

10th January. Met at Leyburn.

Found a leash of foxes in Mr. C. Scrope's Whin at Danby-on-Yore. A brace were promptly headed, but at last a bold one forced his way past " the man on the hill," and ran due north over the railway by Scrogg's Whin, direct to Wham Wood at Constable Burton. Through this without a pause, past the east end of Forty Acres Wood, leaving Barden village to the right, to the cross roads by Rabbit Wood. Time to here : forty minutes of the best. After a slight check, hounds hunted merrily on over Barden Moor down to Laver Gill Quarry, from here he took a turn westward and ran towards Downholme village, but as there was a very strong west wind blowing he sank it, and going over Waithwith Common turned into Badger Gill, where the best of the gallop finished. Hounds took a line out towards Hudswell Banks, where he had probably got to ground.

This was an eight mile point, about thirteen as hounds ran, and the time was one and three-quarter hours.

28th January was a very hard day, and although foxes rather ran in circles, it was a good day's sport.

Found in the Big Wood at Kiplin, and ran sharp across by Forest Farm under Atlay Hill, nearly to Pepper Arden ; turned left-handed past Cowton Whin to North Cowton village, then southwards through Crosshills Plantation, across to Uckerby Whin, and back from there to Cowton Whin, where hounds ran into their fox. Another went away from here at once, and ran back by Crosshills and Uckerby Whin, over Lingy Moor to Moulton Whin ; turned back from here through Uckerby, past Cowton Whin, and on over the Park at Pepper Arden to the Bottoms. Running parallel to the Stell for some time, he turned away from Reedholmes and headed over the hill for Felgill Moor, short of which covert, hounds were run out of scent.

On the 4th March, Mr. Scrope's Whin at Danby provided a good stout fox for the fourth time this season (Mr. Scrope says it was always the same fox, and he named him "White Tag"). He ran nearly the same line as has been described on the 10th January, except that on this date he made first of all direct for Hudswell Banks, then turning westward he got to ground in Downholme Scar, after a capital run of one hour and twenty minutes. It is sad to relate that this gallant fox was found dead in Croft Wood some time afterwards, hounds taking no part in his obsequies.

At the end of this season Major Dent announced his intention of giving up the

hounds, to the regret of all. His friends, old and new, were more than sorry to part with one who had hunted the country so fairly and well, who had shown such good sport, and who was such an excellent Master, not only in the field, but the kennel.

CHAPTER IX.

1898—1904.

THE DUKE OF LEEDS.

(GEORGE GODOLPHIN, 10TH DUKE).

“None but an 'untsman knows an 'untsman's cares.”
—*Surtees*.

The above quotation was chosen for this Master before I commenced to write an account of his Mastership. Chance, good luck, call it what you will, seems to have been kind in my selection, as in the speech the Duke made in acknowledging the gift of a testimonial to him, he said :

“The position of a Master of Hounds is not always a bed of roses. There are certain small, disagreeable duties connected with it. There are occasions when things go a little wrong, and one feels responsible for the apparent failures ; but an occasion like the present wipes out the memory of such shortcomings. I assure you that I shall always remember the very happy time I have had as a Master of Hounds, the excellent people whom I have met, and the



extreme kindness which has been shown to me on all hands."

Although as mentioned at the end of the last chapter, the country lost the services of Major Dent, it had not to look very far for a successor.

After a lapse of eighty years, a Duke of Leeds was once more ready to keep hounds. This time, not to hunt in the "far west" and run into Westmoreland, but to take command of the now well established "Bedale."

A more fitting person could not have been found. As a large land and covert owner, devoted to all field sports, and especially fond of a quick gallop over a good country, he was the very man for the position, and he came into office with the goodwill and the best wishes of all.

In addition to the regulation three days a week, the Duke kept a sufficient number of hounds to enable him to hunt a fourth; on which he hunted hounds himself, devoting this day to the west, north-west, and south-west sides of the country, where he had some good sport.

Those who are fond of hounds, and take an interest and pride in the pack they regularly hunt with, owe a very great debt of gratitude to the Duke. For some years, puppies at "Quarters" had gone wrong; many ills had affected those which "came in," and there was rather a want of some large quantity of fresh young blood in the kennel. The Duke took the bull by the

horns, and purchased in the years 1902 and 1903 the unentered Belvoir draft. Twenty-three couples in the first year, sixteen and a half in the second.

With this most solid foundation has been bred the present pack of hounds. I think, full of quality, even in colour, make and shape; full of drive, and especially the bitches, with no want of tongue.

Out of the 1902 draft, eleven and a half couples, and out of the 1903 draft, six couples, were "put on." A few notes about the two drafts may be of interest to those who are interested in the breeding of hounds. Amongst the draft of 1902 were the following bitches, which have all done well in their work, and also as brood bitches.

'Rosey,' by 'Vagabond,' 1899, 'Rosa-mond,' 1899 (own sister to 'Romulus' and 'Ranter,' both used at Belvoir).

'Various,' by 'Villager,' 1897, 'Handmaid,' 1899, (own sister to a useful dog, 'Vaulter').

'Bella' and 'Balance,' by 'Villager,' 1897, 'Blissful,' 1897.

'Honesty,' by 'Dexter,' 1905, 'Hopeful,' 1894 (own sister to 'Belvoir Handel,' 1899).

'Record,' by 'Dasher,' 1900, 'Rapid,' 1898.

'Rakish,' by 'Stormer,' 1899, 'Ringdove,' 1895.

'Verdant,' by 'Dexter,' 1895, 'Verdant,' 1895.

'Saucy,' by 'Dexter,' 1895, 'Sentiment,' 1897.

Two very useful dogs are also included :

'Velox,' own brother to 'Various,' and
'Valiant,' by 'Villager,' 1897, 'Dauntless,'
1897.

'Velox' was used in the kennel a great deal, and has left some useful stock.

The draft of 1903 was smaller, and the number "put on" therefore less.

Two first-rate bitches, however, are included,
'Delicate,' by 'Dexter,' 1895, 'Destiny'
1898.

'Safety,' by 'Dexter,' 1895, 'Sentiment,'
1897.

'Delicate' is own sister to 'Daystar,' and she and 'Safety' are not only very good to look at, but nailers in their work, and have thrown some good whelps.

A dog, 'Warrener,' by 'Dexter,' 1905, 'Whimsey,' 1900, is worth notice, as he was used a good deal. His stock do not seem to do very much until their second season.

In addition to the above most far-reaching and long-sighted action, the Duke was responsible for the building of another set of kennels, which are called the "New Kennels."

It was thought that the Old Kennels were not very healthy, so he urged the Hunt Committee to build some new ones, on higher ground. Thanks to a most liberal donation of £500 from the late Lord Masham, a fund to defray the cost was started; and in 1902, some creosoted wood kennels of excellent form, with a small cottage adjoining,

were erected at a cost of £1200, on the high ground, south-west of the Old Kennels, between the Leeming Lane and the Low Street, which have proved of great use. Although it was found, after a thorough examination of the drainage system (which was in a most deplorable condition), and a slight alteration of the ventilation, that the Old Kennels were all that could be desired for any pack of hounds; now, when the puppies come in from "Quarters" they are sent at once to the New Kennels, away from the working hounds and whelping bitches. About the first week in May, the old hounds are also moved up, thus giving them the advantage of fresh ground and a change of air, also enabling the Old Kennels to be thoroughly disinfected, aired, and painted. Two sets of kennels may seem to be a very expensive way of housing a pack of hounds, as there are dilapidations on both sets of buildings; at times there are two sets of coppers going; extra kennel-men are required, and there is a good deal more work in the kennel generally. In this case as the buildings were there, and all the better for use during some period of the year, the system I have mentioned was started, and it has been found that change of quarters is most beneficial to the working hounds, the entry, and whelps. All have done exceedingly well, so that the general benefit seems to justify the extra cost.

The Duke retained the services of Fred

Holland as his huntsman, who thus saw his fifth Master in office.

1898—99. On the 26th November, there was a good and hard day's sport in the south-west part of the country.

Found the first fox in Fearby Low Moor, ran north into How Wood, turned from there to the west, past Spring Wood, to the south of Healey Cote; on the south side of Agra Plantation, into Birk Gill, towards the top end of which hounds carried a line, but with no very strong head, and as it was not desirable to go on to the Moor, this fox was not persevered with. A good hunting run of one hour and twenty minutes over a fine sporting piece of country. The second fox was found in Lord Masham's Whin covert, and went through the south end of Ellington Firth, on to Eelmire, through this, and down to the banks of the Yore, opposite to the Clifton Castle northern coverts, where he got to ground. A quick half-hour. Found a third fox in Ellington Firth, which hung to the covert for some time, but at last broke away across into Eelmire, turned left-handed from here to Kilgram Bridge, across the Park at Jervaulx Abbey; turned up the hill towards Ellingstring Plantation, and bearing right-handed, skirted Ramshaw Plantation into Witton Fell, where hounds were run out of scent, after a good hunt of forty minutes.

On the 12th December, I should think a "poultry" stealer was killed.

Found in Limekiln Wood. After a circular hunt of about twenty-five minutes, the fox took refuge on the roof of a cottage in Catterick. Being dislodged from here, he bolted through the open door of the first cottage he came to, and the huntsman going in with a couple or two of hounds, he met his death on the floor of the "front parlour," much to the delight of the inhabitants of Catterick.

On the 13th January, there was a capital gallop from Langton Hall.

Found in the Temple Wood. Ran across to Thrintoft Whin, bore left-handed over the carriage drive at Langton, towards Langton Church, crossed the Stell, and headed north into Streatlam Plantation; from here made a left-handed turn, and ran by the White House and Greenberry Wood almost up to the Forest Farm, at Kiplin; turning away from this, he ran under Atlay Hill nearly up to the Lodge gates at Pepper Arden; turned south up to Streatlam village, then back on the east side of Felgill Moor, down towards Reedholmes, along the west side of Pepper Stell into Pepper Arden Bottoms, and from here he turned east over the Stell as if Frigerdale Wood was his point; but being headed short of Cowton station, he turned back into Reedholmes, where there was a slight check. A welcome halloa forwards put matters right; and running by the bank of the Wiske, past the Crow Wood at Hutton Bonville and Danby Wiske village, hounds

ran into their fox just before he got to Mr. Cust's Plantations. A first-rate hour and twenty minutes.

The Pepper Stell took toll of several this day, and there were not only loose horses, but some wet riders ; the former on the east side of, and the latter in the middle of the water.

On the 8th April, the day after Catterick Races in this year, the Duke was able to give a good day's sport to a very large "field," representative of many Hunts.

Hounds found at once by the lake at Brough, and ran very quickly past Brough Whin to Scotton ; leaving the Hall on the north they went direct to Thornhills Whin, past this, over the Catterick and Half-penny House road down to Hauxwell. Here, after a very quick thirty-five minutes there was a slight check ; but hounds hit off the line in Obelisk Wood, ran past the front of Hauxwell Hall, turned up towards Hunton village, then bore right-handed into Wild Wood. This good fox had gone right through the wood, but being headed on the east side, turned over the Burton Beck to Croft Wood, ran straight through this, and leaving Hutton Hang on the left, headed direct for Mr. Conyers Scrope's Whin, at Danby. As it was known there was a strong litter of cubs in the Whin, hounds were stopped a few fields from it.

1899—1900. On the 20th January, there was a sporting but circular hunt. The Duke, this day, hunting hounds.

Met at Danby-on-Yore. Found immediately in Mr. Scrope's Whin, and ran direct to Constable Burton village, on towards Hauxwell, leaving the Hall on the west, to Newfound-England Quarry; across Hipswell Moor, from which point the fox bore left-handed to Coldstorms; across the Downholme and Walburn Hall road, past Stainton village, across part of Walburn and Stainton Moors to the Deerpark at Bellerby. Here, after hounds had been running for one hour and ten minutes, there was a slight check; but they were soon going again, and ran behind the Manor House at Bellerby to Harmby, leaving Leyburn a mile to the west, then on into Spennithorne Wood, where nothing more could be made of it. He probably got to ground in this unstoppable place. This was a fine gallop of sixteen miles. Mr. Scrope ventured the modest sum of one shilling that it was eighteen; but acknowledging his error as a "judge of distance," the same evening he forwarded twelve postage stamps to his debtor at Middleham, where no doubt under Mr. John Osborne's tuition they learn to be good judges, not only of "pace," but "distance."

On the 24th January, there was a good gallop, and a patient and persevering hunt, ending in blood, from Norton Conyers.

Found at once in Guy's Whin. Ran past Bog Wood down to the river Yore, away from this right-handed, through the coverts at Rushwood, towards Wath village; turning

away from here, ran past Howgrave, by Thornborough, past Langwith House, between Horse Close Wood and Camp Hill Low Wood to Allinson's Brick Yards—west of Carthorpe village. Turned from here past the north end of Carthorpe, up to Elam House on the Leeming Lane; running parallel to which for some distance he then turned back towards Norton Conyers, and leaving Kirklington village and Bury Hills on the right, touched Howgrave, and so back to Guy's Whin, one hour and twenty-seven minutes, without any check.

Hounds then hunted round and about Norton Conyers for another two hours, and eventually killed a fox on the east side of the house, between the Park wall and the railway; after a total hunt of three hours and thirty-five minutes. This was the first fox which, when hunting the hounds himself, the Duke had killed, and Sir Reginald Graham had a stone put up to mark the place where hounds had pulled him down.

A story concerning this stone, and the second whipper-in, during the following season, is to be found in Sir Reginald Graham's "Foxhunting Recollections." *

1900—01. On the 12th December there was a good hunt, hounds meeting at Sleningford Park.

Found in Ellerton Banks, and ran very quickly across the Laver nearly up to

Winksley, but turned left-handed from here to the Studley coverts ; then back through Ellerton Banks, Hollin Head Wood, Thieves Gill, Juniper and Brown's Wood down to the river Yore, just north of Ripon Parks Whin. The fox turned away from the river, came back by North Stainley Hall, across Sleningford Park and out towards Mickley, as if Hackfall was his point ; but turning right-handed, ran parallel to the river up to Tanfield Bridge, crossed the Tanfield and Ripon road towards Tanfield Mill, close to which hounds pulled him down, as he was trying to cross the river.

Time, one hour and thirty-five minutes, hounds worked admirably.

On the 9th March, the Duke gave Lord Zetland's Hounds a day in the Bedale country, and Constable Burton was fixed upon as the place of meeting. There was a large "field," representative of Lord Zetland's and the Bedale, as well as a good many people from various other packs.

A fox was found in Givendale Wood, which went away at once to Spennithorne village ; leaving this to the south, hounds ran very quickly over the pastures below Harmby village pointing for Leyburn ; but turning away from here, he went down to and over the river Yore (in crossing which several people missed the ford, got into deep water, and had to swim out), and made up on to Middleham Moor, where he got to ground after a pretty hunt of forty minutes. It

was only a small place, so he was bolted and killed.

1901—02. It is not very often that two packs of hounds actually meet when hunting a fox, but I find in my hunting diary that this happened on the 25th January, when I was hunting with the York and Ainsty.

The York had met at Dalton village, and Lord Middleton's hounds at Gilling Castle. During the afternoon the two packs met in one of the Newburgh coverts. The York had run well from Peep o' Day Whin, by Oulston and Pond Head Wood to Yearsley, and near this place Mr. Lycett Green came across a whipper-in of Lord Middleton's. Soon afterwards, several of Lord Middleton's hounds joined in the cry of the York, and although at first they seemed somewhat surprised at their companions, they ran merrily on till the York fox was eventually marked to ground near Gilling Castle. The field had also got somewhat mixed, some of the York were with Lord Middleton's hounds, some of Lord Middleton's with the York.

Seven and twenty years ago (October 1881), I saw much the same thing happen with the Holderness and Lord Middleton's. I was hunting with the Holderness. We found at North Dalton Whin, and ran across by Haywold, Huggate and Paine Slack to Fimber station; and crossed the railway into a big wood on the east side of it. Here the Holderness first whipper-in met another

whipper-in, who on being asked whether he had seen anything of a run fox, replied "Oh yes, he's gone to the right, not three minutes in front of you." Of course the fox had gone in the opposite direction, and seeing he was nearly beat, the whipper-in holloaed Lord Middleton's hounds on to the Holderness fox, and eventually the two packs of hounds got joined together, and were hunting this fox. He was killed, and I was told at the time that a Holderness hound rolled him over, which seems only fair. It was a pretty sight, to see the two huntsmen, George Ash and Wm. Burton, drawing their hounds after the fox had been broken up.

At the end of this season, Fred Holland, who had hunted the hounds for twenty years, and served under five Masters, ceased to carry the horn, and retired into private life.

At a large Meeting of hunting people, presided over by the Master, he was presented by the Honble. George Lascelles with the sum of £920, which had been subscribed by members of the Hunt and others, as a token of their appreciation of his services.

A few days later, he was presented with an address and a purse of one hundred guineas, by the farmers and other friends, who likewise testified their esteem for him.

The Duke engaged as his new huntsman, Harry Chandler, who had been first whipper-in with the York and Ainsty, and had hunted the Morpeth Hounds.

1902—03. Sport this year was only fair, and there is no run of any special merit to mention.

1903—04. On the 8th January there was a good gallop from Cowton Whin.

Found there, and ran very quickly to Crosshills Plantation, crossed the Scorton road close to Mack's Nursery Garden, over Forest Farm, rather as if Cowton Whin was the point; but the fox turned right-handed under Atlay Hill, by Pepper Arden Hall, over the Bottoms there as if for Reedholmes, then past Cowton station, on to Dalton Whin (in Lord Zetland's country); he did not enter this covert, but bore left-handed, and hounds were run out of scent (possibly he got to ground) a mile north of North Cowton village, after a good hunt of one hour and forty minutes.

On the 1st February Mr. Scrope's Whin again provided a good stout fox, which went away at once into Spennithorne Banks, ran the length of this covert and away north, over the railway up to Givendale Wood. From here he turned left-handed and went back as far as Leyburn station, still bearing to the left; under the village of Spennithorne, over the Park at Danby, and crossed the Yore, leaving East Witton on the immediate right. From here he rose the hill, and ran past Ramshaw Plantation, along the crest of the hill as far as Ellingstring, then again he sought the low ground and dropped down into Ellington Firth, eventually running

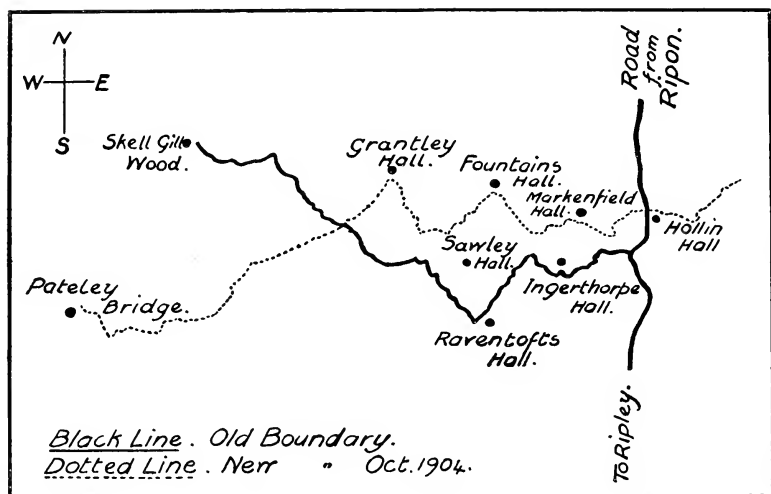
hounds out of scent near High Ellington, after a good hunt of two and three-quarter hours.

On the 8th February, hounds killed a badger in Horse Close Wood.

At the end of this season, to the regret of all, the Duke of Leeds gave up the hounds. He had been unlucky in some ways during his Mastership, as he had two or three bad falls, which kept him out of the saddle for a long period on each occasion, and his last season he was able to hunt very little, as he was laid up for many weeks with an attack of scarlet fever. In addition to his personal misfortunes, the mange epidemic appeared in rather a bad form ; so that foxes were in some parts of the country difficult to find, and there were some long and dragging days.

The members of the Hunt and other friends presented to him a large silver model of a fox, on an ebony stand, as a token of "their esteem and regard, as an appreciation of his unfailing courtesy, and in grateful recognition of the immense services which he had rendered to the Hunt."

The presentation was made at Bedale, on the opening of the season 1904—05, by Sir Reginald Graham, Bart. Captain David Lascelles, who had been Honorary Secretary of the Hunt for the long period of eighteen years, also signified his wish to hand over his duties to a younger man, and Mr. Richard Booth, of Warlaby, was appointed in his place. The post of Honorary Secretary is



by no means a sinecure ! In addition to much correspondence on a multitude of matters, the settlement of poultry claims (that ever increasing hunting scourge) demands a lot of time, many interviews, and an infinity of tact and good humour ; besides which, according to Mr. Jorrocks, “ In the field, a good ‘ Sec.’ ought always to be ready to leap first over any awkward place, or catch the M.F.H’s. ’oss, if he happens to lead over.”

The thanks of the country for the work he had done during so many years were tendered to Captain Lascelles, accompanied by the gift of a pair of silver five branch candelabra, and four single candlesticks to match them.

Captain Lascelles’ father (The Honble. George Lascelles) was Honorary Secretary from the year 1869 to 1886 ; so that father and son have, between them, done much sporting work for the country, during a period of thirty-five years.

1904. In this year the southern boundary of the Hunt, where it adjoins the York and Ainsty country, between the river Yore and Pateley Bridge, was adjusted by Sir Reginald Graham, Bart. (then Chairman of the Hunt Committee), in consultation with Mr. E. Lycett Green, Master of the York and Ainsty Hounds, and his Hunt Committee ; the following line being agreed upon.

The main road from Pateley Bridge to Ripon, up to the point where it divides to

Grantley Hall and Sawley Hall ; following the latter, leaving Sawley on the south, Skell Bank Wood and Fountains Hall on the north, by Markenfield Hall, up to Hollin Hall, which is left on the south, across the Ripon and Bishop Monkton road, due east, up to the river Yore.

By this arrangement, the country round Sawley and Ingerthorpe Halls was handed over to the York and Ainsty (they had hunted there on sufferance for some years), and the Bedale acquired a small piece of country due south of Ripon, bounded on the east by the Yore, on the west by the Ripon and Harrogate road, and on the south by the above-mentioned new southern boundary.



CHAPTER X.

1904—1908.

JOHN J. MOUBRAY.

“ Avoid chopping and changing, we know what we have; but we don't know what we may get.”

Surtees.

“ Happy are they who go out to please themselves, and not to astonish others.”—*Surtees.*

1904—05. A successor to the Duke of Leeds was not a very easy person to find; but eventually, Mr. J. J. Moubray, of Naemoor, Perthshire, was induced to take his place. Mr. Moubray, although chiefly resident in Scotland, had hunted for many seasons with the Bedale—in fact from the date of his marriage (in 1893) to Miss Booth, daughter of Mr. William Booth, of Oran, and niece of Mr. John Booth—so he was by no means a stranger to the country, and it was a source of much satisfaction to very many, that one so closely allied to a most popular Master's family should preside over the “ ups and downs ” of the Hunt.

Mr. Moubray engaged as his huntsman Frank Freeman, who had been first whipper-in to the Cheshire, and had served his

apprenticeship to hounds under a first rate tutor, Will Dale, with the Brocklesby.

His choice of a young man was fully justified ; as after showing some very good sport for two seasons, Freeman was induced to desert the Bedale for the Pytchley country, in which he has not only killed his foxes, but has shown the large fields there some first-rate gallops.

He had to commence his huntsman's career under some slight disadvantages, as the whole of the Kennel staff, inside and out, were entirely a new lot. The kennels, the hounds, and the country were unknown to all, with the exception of a second horseman, who had a knowledge of the roads (they only, we will hope).

Having had a good deal to do with him, I can say that there was no difficulty made which was not at once met or over-ruled, and from the day he entered the kennels to the day he left, no hitch of any sort occurred.

His hounds were very soon devoted to him, and when it came to hunting, he could do anything with them. This, combined with a fine eye for a country, an instinctive knowledge of the run of a fox, a most retentive landscape memory (he *never* forgot a covert or a road he had once been into or on to), together with being a very fine strong and quiet horseman, soon made him at home in the field, and all went as smoothly as possible. During this year there was, generally

speaking, good sport, and one or two excellent gallops. The very good work done by the bitches of the Belvoir drafts must have been a source of great gratification to the Duke of Leeds, proving how exceedingly wise and beneficial to the pack had been his purchase of them.

We all of us receive strange requests at times, and the following is one which was sent to Sir Henry Beresford-Pierse, when the Duke of Leeds gave up the hounds. Whether it was seriously meant, or only written in chaff, is hard to say.

“ H——t——n,

February 27th, 1904.

Sir. I beg to ask the favour of your influence in order to get me the Mastership of the Bedale Hounds, on the resignation of His Grace The Duke of Leeds. Probably the only kind of office I shall be able to get, as I am too old for Parliament. I do not see that it is requisite for a Master of Hounds to have a large range of stabling, in order to take in the horses of gentlemen desiring to hunt.

Stabling can always be had in a place like Bedale, for such purpose. I have a good knowledge of the district, a great love for horses, and at one time was a fair good rider. The house occupied by the late Mr. A. at P. B., would be quite large enough for me, and you can appoint an elderly lady, if you wish, to share with me the expenses of

housekeeping. An income of £700 a year, exclusive of ALL Hunt expenses, would be sufficient for me. Hoping to hear full particulars.

I am, dear Sir, yrs. truly,
H. C. W.

How moderately easy would be the position of a Master of Hounds, if we could engage ourselves in that capacity, under the above conditions!! The only proviso being, that one should be a bachelor, and the elderly housekeeper, perhaps a "crab." To turn from the comic to the sad; in May of this year, a very good friend to fox-hunting passed away in the person of Admiral The Honble. W. C. Carpenter, whose coverts at Kiplin were always a sure find. Although very short-sighted, he rode most gallantly, up to the end of his life, on well-bred horses; and when hounds really ran, "The Admiral" was generally not very far from their sterns.

1904—05. On the 8th October, a somewhat curious incident happened when hounds met at Newton House. Much to my surprise when I got there some minutes before the time advertised for meeting, I heard hounds running hard in Gatenby wood. As I was, owing to the Master's absence, in charge that day, I was much annoyed at the huntsman having moved off before my arrival. It turned out to have been unintentional. As hounds were coming along

the Leeming Lane, not far from Clapham Lodge, they winded a fox ; were on to the line in a second, and whipper-in and horn were useless. They crashed through the grounds at Newton House, and so across to the Wood, where I heard them.

Needless to say my vexation was temporary, and my admiration for the nose and dash of the hounds, who would *not* be stopped, unbounded.

On the 2nd December there was a hard, a long, and a good day's sport.

Hounds met at Kiplin. Found in the Big Wood and ran nearly up to Forest Farm, then turned right-handed over the low ground under Atlay Hill, over the Northallerton and Cowton road into Pepper Arden Park ; after dodging round this for a short time the fox sought refuge under the kitchen garden wall, where hounds killed him, after a very quick twenty-five minutes.

Mr. Stobart then suggested drawing the rushy Bottoms on the north side of the Hall, as a fox had often been seen there. " The oft' viewed " was not in this case " absent," but was on his " tuft," and went away at once, straight to Cowton Whin ; past that, and on to Crosshills Plantation, from which place he doubled back again, passing Cowton Whin, nearly up to East Cowton ; then over Cockleberry Farm to Dalton Whin. There was no pause here, and hounds ran straight on to the Halnaby coverts, on the north side of which, after some time hunting

him up and down a narrow strip of plantation, hounds killed their fox, after a very good hunt of one hour and thirty-five minutes.

The third fox was found in Uckerby Whin, late in the afternoon, and as the two previous gallops had been enough for the larger portion of the "field," there were not many to see this gallop, which was quick, as long as it lasted.

The fox broke away on the south side of the Whin, over the rough fields down to Uckerby village; then turning right-handed ran on to Kirk Bank; from here, past the Quarry at Middleton-Tyas (the earth in which place, a kind friend hearing hounds running, promptly went and blocked), up to the Leeming Lane at Scotch Corner. The fox had evidently gone on into the Sedbury coverts, but as it was then nearly dark, hounds were stopped. The Master and about three others being the only ones left.

On the 20th February, hounds met at Thorp Perrow, having a good and somewhat memorable day.

Found in Low Park Wood and ran up to Well village, then turned by Holly Hill, across to the Belts; up this covert, across the Well and Masham road to Round Hills Plantation; from here across to Upbank Wood, through this, past the level railway crossing on the Aldburgh carriage drive, into Heslett's Wood and forward to Tanfield Banks. Here the fox made a left-handed turn and

ran nearly down to Tanfield village, then north as if for Nosterfield, but bearing right-handed again, passed Rushwood Hall, through the end of Mr. Nussey's Whin covert, over the Masham railway, to Norton Conyers Park, just outside a narrow strip of plantation; on the north side of which, hounds ran into him, after a very good hunt of one hour and forty minutes. Thirteen miles as hounds ran.

Another fox went away from the plantation while hounds were breaking up this one, but nothing much could be done with him. A third fox was found in Coronation Whin, Thorp Perrow, which ran very sharply south, along the top of Gybdykes, through Low Burton Wood, crossed the Well and Masham road just above Masham station, through Round Hills, the east end of Upbank Wood, across into Heslett's Wood. Here there was a slight check, but hounds hit off the line on the south side of the wood and ran on into Tanfield Banks, where I think a change of foxes took place. They crossed the river Yore, which was in flood and too deep to ford, into Hackfall; and Freeman tried to blow them back from this covert. There must have been a rare good scent with this fox, as he could not get any hounds back.

Tanfield and Masham bridges were the only two ways of getting across the river, so the first whipper-in was sent to Tanfield, and Freeman went over Masham

bridge; hoping by this means to pick up hounds at one end or the other of Hackfall. By the time they got round there was no sign whatever of the hounds, and they were reported to have been seen running hard through Hutt Gill, pointing for Kirkby Malzeard Moor. Although search was made all over the Moor until late at night, nothing could be heard of them, and much to his sorrow and regret, Freeman reached Kennels after midnight without his hounds.

The next morning, however, came the welcome news that the greater portion of the pack was at Ramsgill (in Nidderdale, about four miles from Pateley Bridge), near which place it is supposed they killed their fox, as they were seen close behind him at Carlsmoor. By the afternoon of the 22nd February, every hound had turned up, and none were any worse for their absence from Kennel.

On the 3rd March, meeting at Hutton Bonville, there was a good day's sport. Found a fox in the south end of the Whins on High Magdalen Farm, which turned towards the railway, and ran more or less parallel to it up to Dalton Junction. Here, hounds had a miraculous escape. An express train came suddenly round a corner while they were crossing the rails, and it looked as if they must be cut to ribbons. I happened to be close to the railway fence when the train appeared, and turned away my head while it passed, expecting to see the

line strewn with corpses. When it had gone by, one bitch, 'Warfare,' only was injured, she having about six inches of her stern cut off, but she was soon hunting again. I am inclined to think that the great current of air caused by the speed of the train, swept or frightened away from the metals both those hounds which were just over or just about to cross the set of rails on which the train was travelling, and if the train had been slowing down, or going at a much lower rate of speed, there would have been more casualties. It was, however, a most providential escape, but a sickening sight to witness. After this unforeseen check, hounds soon picked up the line, and ran very quickly past Dalton village to the road under the railway bridge at Croft, where the fox was seen only about fifty yards in front of them. From this point nothing more could be made of it, the road soon got blocked up with steaming horses, and a "cast" was a farce. This was a very quick gallop of twenty minutes, and it was unlucky not getting hold of our fox.

In the afternoon a fox was found in Cowton Whin, which hounds hunted only slowly, towards Uckerby, then right-handed by Cramble Cross towards Dalton Whin; bearing right-handed he crossed the Hunt boundary road, when we either changed foxes, or scent improved in a most marvellous fashion; as from this point hounds ran very fast along Pepper Arden Bottoms

leaving the Hall on the right, towards Reedholmes; short of which he crossed the Pepper Stell, as if Frigerdale Wood was his point. Being headed on the hill between East Cowton and Birkby, he turned back through Reedholmes covert, and ran parallel to the Wiske up to Hutton Bonville Hall, opposite which he crossed the river, had a look at the "earth" by the Church, went on across the Park, and over the railway, as if for the Old Whin; but being headed short of this, retraced his steps over the Park, and was killed at the back of the stables at Hutton Bonville, after an excellent hunt of one hour and ten minutes, of which fifty minutes was fast.

1905—06. On the 8th November there was a rare scent in the early part of the day, as hounds were able to push a run fox through Hackfall from South to North, bring him half way back (by the Castle), and eventually kill him not far from the Old Whin at Azerley, after going round by Grewelthorpe, the Barras Wood, Sleningford Park, Pond Wood, and Thunder Wood. One hour and twenty minutes.

The 8th December was a sporting day, and there was a large field out, many people from Lord Zetland's, the Hurworth, and other packs of Hounds being present. Hounds met at Kiplin, and found at once in the Big Wood. After a short time in covert, the fox went away towards Greenberry wood; leaving this on the left he went on up to Streatlam village, past the Whin, towards Danby Wiske

village ; bearing right-handed from here, he went down the banks of the Wiske, past the east side of Danby Grange, and was marked to ground there, after a very fast twenty-five minutes. A four mile point.

Another fox was found in Felgill Moor, but the covert was so thick, it was some time before hounds could force him away. He eventually broke towards Kiplin, and ran over the Forest Farm ; taking a right-hand turn from here he went up Atlay Hill, crossed the road into the Park at Pepper Arden, on into Pepper Bottoms and crossed Pepper Stell, as if for East Cowton. He was headed short of the village, and turned back towards Birkby, then across into Reedholmes, where a fresh fox was on foot. Hounds stuck to the hunted one, and ran along the Wiske side up to the Crow Wood at Hutton Bonville, where the fox crossed the Wiske, ran past the Church, over the railway, to the Old Whin. Time up to this point, one and a half hours. Here, in this "home for foxes," hounds unluckily got on to a fresh one, and ran a sharp ring of half an hour out towards Yafforth and back to Danby Wiske village—to ground. As the run fox had been seen "dead beat" in the Old Whin at Hutton Bonville, the Master took hounds back there, on the chance of well-earned blood. Soon the bitches "feather." They speak, they are all together—all is well !

They hunt slowly but beautifully over some strong cold plough land, up to, and through, the Plantation bordering the Northallerton

and Smeaton road, and after dodging up one hedgerow and down another for thirty-five minutes, at last come up to their fox in some disused farm buildings at Cock Howle. The finish was not sudden, as although it was certain that the fox was somewhere in the buildings, he could not be located, and it was through an old bitch, 'Adelaide,' who would not leave a particular corner, that his hiding place was discovered. The hunt after this fox was two hours and three-quarters, from the time hounds first spoke, in Felgill Moor.

29th December. During Mr. Moubray's Mastership, the hunt which I am about to describe is by general consent allowed to be the best that has taken place, and in many hunting diaries is, I hope, marked with a good big red cross. Although one is always apt to think one's own geese swans, there happened on this date to be a good many people from other packs of hounds, hunting with the Bedale; and a large number of them have personally described the run to me as "a very fine hunt,"—hounds and huntsman both coming in for much praise. The start of the day was not propitious, as Uckerby and Bolton Whins failed to provide the needful article. On the way to draw the Kiplin coverts, hounds were run through Greenberry Wood. They at once spoke to a line, but only faintly (the fox evidently having gone some time), and hunted slowly up to a whinney field, on the west side of the road, opposite

Felgill Moor. Here probably the fox had waited, scent improved, they ran to within a field of Felgill Moor, then turned due north and passing under and over Atlay Hill, came within three fields of Cowton Whin; from here, making a left-hand turn across the Forest Farm, into Hobder Wood; through this, past the Saw Mill; on the west side of which they faltered a moment. Freeman was about to cast his hounds, when he noticed an old bitch "just feather" in the furrow of a cold plough. He let them alone, and they were soon going again over the grass, heading for Ellerton village, leaving the Hall at Kiplin on the left. The fox went down to the Swale, but not liking the look of the river, turned left-handed and ran the bank as far as Langton village, went round the Rectory there, then down again to the Swale bank, and on into the grounds of Langton Hall. Here he was viewed (a well run fox) by Mr. R. Booth. He knew his country, as now he crossed the Swale and tried the "earths" at the end of the Terrace, at Kirkby Fleetham; but finding them closed had to keep moving on, and set his head for the Scruton coverts; passing the end of the Big Wood there, hounds raced over the Swale pastures up to the Bedale and Northallerton road, on the west side of Morton Bridge. The fox crossed the river again by the bridge, and headed as if for Warlaby, but turning away from this place, bore right-handed past Morton Grange and Langlands over the Ainderby Stell; where

some of the "field" got over, some got in, and a few who knew, crossed by the ford. He was now sinking, and hounds were running keen for blood. He reached the Low Plantation at Solberg, from which a fresh fox went away; but the bitches stuck to their hunted one, and in a few fields more, ran into their fox after a most brilliant gallop of two hours. The point from north-west to south-east being nine miles, and the distance as hounds ran, not far short of twenty-two miles.

Sport just at this period was very good, and a run which took place on the 8th January (hounds meeting at Rudd Hall) is worth recording. A brace of foxes were found in Goskins, and hounds luckily got away with the right one—a stout fellow. He ran on the north side of Rudd Hall, and south side of East Appleton to Tunstall village, pointing for Brough, but turned westward and went past Scotton village up to Thornhills Whin; through that, and Gandale Wood; from which place he sank the hill, leaving Hauxwell Hall on his left, across to the coverts at Constable Burton. After going through the Wham and Givendale Wood, he bore westwards to the Harmby coverts, and from them right-handed into Forty Acres, up the hill past Barden village, over the Catterick and Half-penny House road, on to Barden Moor; went over Laver Gill and down the north side of this to the Richmond road, through the West Wood at Hipswell, down to the banks of the Swale; where hounds ran

into him opposite to Easby Abbey, after a fine sporting run of two hours and three-quarters.

Measuring from point to point of this run, the distance is seventeen and a half miles, and probably as hounds ran, they would cover well over twenty-three.

Goskins to Tunstall	.	.	3 miles
Tunstall towards Brough	.	.	$\frac{3}{4}$ „
Brough to Scotton village	.	.	$1\frac{3}{4}$ „
Scotton to Givendale Wood	.	.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ „
Givendale to Harmby	.	.	1 „
Harmby to Laver Gill	.	.	$3\frac{1}{4}$ „
Laver Gill to Easby	.	.	$3\frac{1}{4}$ „
			<hr/>
			$17\frac{1}{2}$

The West Country foxes are reputed to take some catching, but on the 5th March the bitch pack was too quick for one of them, from Witton Fell.

We found towards the easterly end of the Fell, and ran across to Ramshaw Plantation, where hounds got on excellent terms with their fox. Passing through this, he took a loop out on to the moor edge, then turned left-handed through Ellingstring Plantation towards High Healey Cote, then again left-handed, went through Lord Masham's Whin covert, past High Ellington, on the east side of Ellington Firth, leaving Eelmire Wood just on the right, past High Jervaulx; then up the hill into Grey Yard Plantation; at which point of the run, a good many horses were

about beat, as hounds had run very fast without the slightest check, over a somewhat hilly piece of country. He went through the Plantation, past the south side of Ramshaw as if for Witton Fell, but he could not reach it, and hounds pulled him down at the head of Deep Gill, after an excellent run of fifty-seven minutes. The head of this good fox now adorns the billiard room wall of Mr. H. Christie, at Jervaulx Abbey.

At the end of this season, Mr. Moubray lost the services of his huntsman, Freeman, who went to the Pytchley; and he engaged as his successor his brother-in-law, Sam Gillson, who had been with the South and West Wilts Hounds for eight seasons, the last six of which as huntsman.

Peter Farrelly, first whipper-in with the Quorn, came in a similar capacity, in place of C. Pocketts.

In 1906, Mr. S. Conyers Scrope, of Danby-on-Yore, who for many years had been most anxious to hunt the Moorland side of the country with a pack of his own, obtained his wish; and that portion of the Bedale country, west of the following line, was lent to him.

From Hudswell village due south, to the cross roads leading to Half-penny House and Catterick; from there, west, to Half-penny House, along the Bellerby and Leyburn road, to the railway station at the latter place; then the road to East Witton, under Spennithorne and Middleham. From East Witton round the west end of Witton Fell, across the Moor

in an easterly direction, by High Healey Cote, to Healey village. From here, the road up to Pott Hall, past the south side of Druid's Wood, through Ilton, Grewelthorpe and Kirkby Malzeard, to the west end of the Grantley Hall Woods.

Mr. Scrope had many difficulties to contend with, the chief being that his hounds took to sheep worrying, and he was obliged at the end of one season to abandon his project, to the great regret of all.

1906—07. On the 9th November, a bob-tailed fox from Uckerby Whin got to ground in a hollow tree, an account of which has already been noted in February, 1835, when a like occurrence took place in the same locality.

The 3rd December was a hard day for horses and hounds, and although they never ran fast, it was a good day's sport.

Met at Newton House, and after running round that place for nearly two hours, at last a fox plucked up courage, and crossed the Swale below Gatenby village. The river was very big, and although Mr. Holliday, who was hunting with the Bedale this year, twice swam his horse over the river, he was unable to effect a landing on the far side. The fox after crossing the river luckily turned up stream, so Morton Bridge was the nearest way of getting to hounds, but it meant a long way round. Fortunately hounds came to a check by Morton Grange Farm, and we were able to pick them up there. They soon were going again, and ran by the south side

of Ainderby Steeple village to Warlabby Willow Garth, and on to near Northallerton Station. From here the fox bore right-handed, crossed the railway and went direct to Crosby Cote ; on from there into Oliver's Whin and thence to Stank Whin, where hounds were running for some time ; eventually a fox broke away on the north-east side, but after going a short distance northwards, hounds had to be stopped, as it was dark.

On the 7th January there was a fine gallop, hounds just missing blood.

Met at Constable Burton. Hounds "feathered" on a line the moment they were put into Canaan Plantation, were quickly able to speak to it, and soon were driving away.

The fox had crossed the Leyburn road and ran over the railway, leaving Croft Wood on the left, up to Hutton Hang ; from here by Hull Plantation, down to within two fields of Marriforth Whin, then across to Thornton Steward, and leaving the village to the west, crossed the Yore by Kilgram Bridge, nearly up to Eelmire Wood. He then bore right-handed to High Jervaulx, under Ellingstring village, as though Ramshaw was his point ; but turned away from this covert, and went straight over the moor to Agra Plantation ; at the top side of which, Gillson saw his fox, dead beat, close to him. He was then unfortunately down wind of his hounds, and could not make them hear his horn. They had got over the very high and strong wall which bounds the covert, into the wood, on

the low side ; and had struck the line of a fresh fox, which they ran out on the south side, over the Healey and Colsterdale road, and brought back into the wood. As the "earths" were open, the run fox had probably sneaked to ground, as nothing more could be made of him. The time up to Agra Plantation was an hour and ten minutes, a six and a half mile point—eleven miles as hounds ran—and collar work the whole way from Kilgram Bridge.

On the 15th February and the 15th March, from Uckerby Whin, hounds ran an almost identical line. On the first date, the fox got to ground only a hundred yards in front of hounds on the banks of the Tees. On the second date, I think he was left in Stapleton Whin.

The main points of the two runs, which were both fast, were as follows.

Uckerby to Cross Hills Plantation, back from there, leaving Cowton Whin on the east, by Moulton station to Halnaby ; across to Clervaux Castle, and in both instances by Stapleton Whin, up to the banks of the Tees.

On the 18th March there was a good gallop and hunt on the west side of the country. Found in the Wham at Constable Burton, and broke away towards Bellerby ; being headed short of this place, the fox turned back, past the kitchen garden at Constable Burton Hall, by Garriston, nearly up to Beggarmire Wood ; then with a left-hand turn, leaving Hauxwell village on the west, he breasted the hill, passed through the end

of Gandale Wood, over Black Rigg, and across the moor to Laver Gill, pointing for Hudswell. He now sank the wind, and dropped down into Badger Gill, from there into the West Wood, at Hipswell, turning back from which, he came over the east end of Waithwith Common, up to Wenlock Wood, through this, over Scotton Hill to Thornhill's Whin; on the north side of which, hounds marked him to ground, after a good hunt of one hour and fifty minutes. About eighteen miles, as hounds ran.

At the end of this season, Mr. Cecil Lupton took the place of Mr. R. Booth, as honorary secretary to the Hunt; the latter finding that he could not well spare the necessary time to carry on the work to his satisfaction.

The Master was again called upon to provide a huntsman for one of the Midland packs of Hounds, as S. Gillson went in that capacity to the Cottesmore, under Lord Lonsdale, who had just taken over the country.

Gillson's father had been huntsman to these hounds for many seasons, when Mr. W. Baird was Master of them.

Mr. Moubray filled his place by 'putting on' his first whipper-in, Peter Farrelly.

At the commencement of the season 1840—41, I inserted "some rules as concerns hunting." In January of this year (1907), I came across the following, which are so humorous, and yet convey such an infinity of caution as to "*what should not be done*," that with my apologies to the *Western Morning News*, I reprint them.

RULES FOR RIDERS TO HOUNDS.

A correspondent of evidently a humorous turn of mind writes to the *Western Morning News* to say that he has come across the following "Rudimentary Rules" for riders to hounds, and thought their perusal might amuse, and possibly instruct, followers to hounds, beginners and otherwise:—

RUDIMENTARY RULES RELIGIOUSLY RESPECTED BY RIDERS, AND REASONS RESPECTING THEM.

1.—When riding on the road always press past the second whipper-in and other hunt servants to the tail of the huntsman's horse. It will drive the hounds in front of the huntsman, and so enable him to see how many have followed him from the Kennel; it will, too, teach the hounds to follow the whipper-in, and not the huntsman, and so prevent them bestowing any undue preference on the latter.

2.—Should a hound linger behind for a minute, on no account stop your horse, but ride at him and flick him with your whip. It will teach him better manners for the future.

3. When you have ascertained by enquiry, or your own superior intelligence, which covert is to be drawn, do not follow the hounds thereto if you think you know a shorter way; go your own route, and post yourself where you think they will eventually come. You will thus show your knowledge of the country, and be able to tell the huntsman if you have seen a fox come out and return into the covert. If you take seven friends with you your success will be all the more certain.

4.—If you are constrained to stay with the rest of the field when hounds are drawing, get up wind and talk as loud as you can. It will prevent people who come out to hunt listening to what is going on in covert, and so, maybe, obtaining an unfair start.

5.—At all times, but particularly if hounds are running, take care to let every gate slam behind you.

It will teach the next comer how to open gates, and also to restrain himself from using bad language.

6.—If you see hounds are running towards a covert, or going to draw one, and the first whipper-in rides on to the far side, follow him with all speed, and induce your friends to accompany you. The whipper-in will be glad of your assistance and someone to talk to ; it would be very dull for him all alone. Moreover, it is obvious that a fox can see three or four people better than one ; consequently, that number can see a fox better than one alone could.

7.—If hounds check, and you happen to be near, ride up among them without a moment's delay. Your presence cannot fail to help and encourage them, particularly if your horse is steaming.

8.—When the huntsman makes his cast, be sure to stick as close to him as possible. You will then be able to ensure that he does the job properly.

9.—If you arrive at a check, and see other people standing still and silent (which, however, is very seldom the case), push past them, turn your horse in front of them, whistle, and tell them in your loudest tones how well your horse has jumped. It will be most interesting to them ; moreover, you will teach them that hunting is a democratic sport, that you have as much right there as they have. But, above all, it will teach hounds to perform their duties regardless of surrounding influences.

10.—If possible, now is the time to ride up to the huntsman and tell him what extraordinary good sport you have been having with the neighbouring pack. You will thus prevent him over-straining his intellect with the matter in hand.

11.—If hounds are running slowly in the open or up a covert, get well in front of them and the huntsman, and the more and louder you talk the better. You will thus prevent the huntsman neglecting the beauties of the surrounding scenery and thinking only of sport.

12.—Do not wait until the huntsman has finished drawing a covert, but ride on before he has got the hounds out to the next he is likely to draw. It will

give him an intimation of where you wish him to go, and show him the way.

13.—When you have arrived at the covert you intend him to draw, get up wind, talk, and crack your whip, if able to do so. You will thus give the fox, if there happens to be one in the covert, a good start, which is everything in this life.

14.—If hounds come to a road when running, jump into it as soon as you can, as near the middle of the pack as may be. This will teach the hounds to get out of the way of the horses.

15.—Whether hounds are running or not, jump unnecessary fences, ride over wheat, seeds, and other crops, but more particularly beans, on every possible occasion.

16.—Encourage your horse to run into, tread on the heels of and eat the tail of the horse in front of you. It promotes circulation and good feeling ; it also teaches the front horse to use his hocks.

17.—When you see the people waiting their turn at a fence, come on at a canter and cut in, or else creep up the side of the fence and turn your horse sharp over in front of them. It shows them how to do the trick.

18.—If you see people want to have a run at a fence, particularly in the case of a brook, if you do not intend to jump it yourself, get between them and the obstacle, broadside on if possible. (It is not a bad plan to ride up and down the side of a brook at the only jumpable places.) You will teach people how to jump at a walk, or how to take a fall.

19.—If the Huntsman wishes to take his hounds past the field in a road, do not go the same side as other people, but put your horse with his head to the fence on the opposite side. You will teach the Huntsman the truth of the old Latin proverb, “ *In medio tutissimus ibis* ”—in the middle you are safest—to be kicked.

20.—When you have eaten your luncheon do not adopt the objectionable practice of rolling up your sandwich paper and throwing it in the nearest ditch. Unfold it, and let it blow among the horses. The paper littered about will give an air of festivity and tidiness,

conveying sweet reminiscences of a cockney tripper's picnic. Moreover, with luck it may blow against a horse's leg, and cause him to kick his neighbour—always a source of merriment.

1907—08. This season began well, as after a very useful time cub-hunting, the first Friday in November (the 8th) provided a capital day's sport.

The moment hounds were put into Lingy Moor, a fox was holloaed away on the north side, which ran across to Uckerby Whin, where luckily no change was made; but breaking at once on the east side, he turned as if for the village of Uckerby, but short of it, bore right handed across to Church Whin, which he did not enter but crossed the road to the Quarry near Middleton-Tyas. Here again hounds were lucky, as there is an "earth" there, which was probably open; but after a turn up and down the plantation, the fox went away towards the village of Middleton-Tyas, then bearing to the left, passed Murky Hill and on to the Halnaby coverts. In Birch Carr Wood there was a very slight check, but hounds were soon going again, and hunted prettily up to Moulton Whin. The fox probably had waited here, as from this point they ran much faster; crossed the Darlington and Richmond railway a quarter of a mile southwest of Moulton station, and it looked as if Cowton Whin was his point. But disdaining this shelter, he pushed on under Atlay Hill Farm as if for Pepper Arden Hall, but turned away from here and ran parallel to the North-

allerton road as far as Low Whinholme. Here, it looked as though he wanted to be into Felgill Moor, but he kept on towards Greenberry Wood, then turned to the back of Streatlam village, had one more look at Felgill, and went into Streatlam Whin, where, after a few turns up and down the covert, hounds pulled him down; one bitch, 'Gamestress,' tackled him by herself, and though she did not hold him, tore off half his brush. This was an excellent gallop of two hours, and about seventeen miles as hounds ran.

A second fox was found in Streatlam Plantation, and hounds ran very fast by Danby Hill to Thrintoft Whin, past Thrintoft village, down to the Swale, which was crossed opposite Scruton, into the Kirkby Fleetham coverts, where they were run out of scent.

On the 29th January there was a good day's sport. Found in Pickhill Whin and ran very quickly, leaving Kirklington village on the left into Camp Hill Woods. (In crossing a small wooden bridge over Elam Beck, near Sinderby station, owing to the roadway collapsing, Mr. Bertie Lawson's horse got so tightly wedged between the bearers, that it had to be sawn out). There was only a moderate scent in covert, but pushing their fox out on the south-west side, hounds ran better again in the open, and went on the west side of Howgrave, to Mr. Nussey's Whin covert; through this, over the railway to Norton Conyers, and down to the river Yore. Being headed here, he turned back, leaving

Guy's Whin on the left and retraced his steps to Camp Hill, where he was seen, hard run, close to hounds. Unfortunately a fresh fox got up in front of them, on to which they changed, running on the west side of Carthorpe up to Theakston, where he was lost.

Hounds came back to Camp Hill to try and pick up the beaten fox, but failed to come across him.

On the 17th February, hounds ran at a great pace from Bedale Railway Wood, by Burrill, Cowling, and the Thornton Watlass coverts, to Sandy Flats at Marriforth. Although the huntsman and a few more got fairly well away with hounds, they did not see much of them until the Black Wood at Thornton Watlass was reached.

A few days later, on the 21st February, there was another very quick eighteen minutes to ground. Found in the New Whin at Hutton Bonville, and hounds ran as straight as a die to the whinney fields on High Magdalen Farm, near Smeaton. The huntsman, although on by no means a slow horse, was never able to get nearer than three fields to his hounds.

Later on this day, and again on the 6th March, hounds ran nearly the same line; the greater part of the hunt being in the Hurworth country, both foxes being found at Hutton Bonville. I will give a description of the run on the 6th March, as on this date they ran a little further, but both were first-rate gallops. On the 21st February, the time up to Winton

was two hours, on the 6th March one hour and three-quarters ; the country this day riding very deep, as there had been a heavy fall of snow a day or two previous.

Found in the Old Whin, and ran very fast to near Birkby Church, where there was a slight check, but hounds hit off the line right-handed, and ran well, across the Northallerton and Darlington road, leaving Hornby Grange on the left, to Appleton Wiske. From here they ran very fast up wind by Welbury and Brompton Whins, neither of which the fox entered, nearly to Brompton village. He then turned towards the hills, and crossing the railway went on to Winton Whin, skirted this and reached Foxton Wood. He evidently was out of his own country, as he failed to try the "earths" there, and went on to Sigston, on the south-east of which hounds were run out of scent.

For many years the river Wiske, with a very soft bottom, has often been a terrible nuisance (more especially to the huntsman) when hounds run between Hutton Bonville, Felgill, Pepper Arden, Reedholmes and Smeaton. The only two fords, that on the east side of Reedholmes, and that on the south side of the Crow Wood at Hutton Bonville, being a long way apart. There was, therefore, much rejoicing towards the end of this season, when a good substantial riding bridge was put over the river ; about half way between the two fords. All hoping in the future to be so much nearer to hounds when they cross this awkward obstacle.

Apropos of the ford at Crow Wood ; I remember rather an amusing incident, indicative of the proverb, " Might is right." Hounds ran very quickly from Pepper Arden Bottoms, past Reedholmes, in the direction of Hutton Bonville. One who knew " the ropes," made a bee-line for this ford, and arrived there amongst the first few. Instead of thrusting his way over, " he hesitated and was lost." Others crowded up. " Might became right," and he was pushed back into the ruck. The last I heard, being a plaintive plea, " Please let me through, I was the first here."

As there was somewhat above an average number of foxes in the country this year, Mr. Moubray hunted four days a week, from January until the end of the season.

This concludes the fourth year of Mr. Moubray's Mastership. There were many more good days sport and quick gallops ; but having already rather exceeded the limit of recounting about three days of each season, I must put my pen aside, with a hope that any future scribe may have the same difficulty as I have had, viz. : to select what is best to record from among many good things.

APPENDIX A.

"THE BEDALE HOUNDS."

LIST OF MASTERS AND HUNT SERVANTS.

YEAR.	MASTER.	HUNTSMAN.	1ST WHIPPER-IN.	2ND WHIPPER-IN.
1832 to 1843	Mr. Mark Milbank	The Master ..	George Barwick, and K. H.	Joe Mason
1844 to 1850	Do.	Do.	G. Cross, and K.H...	Do.
1850 to 1856	Do.	Joe Mason ..	Will Morgan ..	
1856 to 1861	The Hon. W. Ernest Duncombe	Joe Mason ..	Stephen Shepherd ..	
1861 to 1862	(Lord Feversham)	A man from Mr. Hill's Hounds	Do.	
1862 to 1863	Do.	Harrison ..	Do.	
1863 to 1864	Do.	Beers ..	Do.	
1864 to 1865	Do.	Christian ..	Do.	
1865 to 1867	Do.	Stephen Shepherd ..	Do.	
1867 to 1871	Mr. John B. Booth ..	Tom Carr, from 'The Herefordshire'	Charles Orvis ..	(two seasons) Do.
1871 to 1873	Do.	The Master ..	W. Maiden ..	H. Harrison
1873 to 1877	Do.	A. Thatcher ..	Alfred Thatcher, and K. H.	Barney Spence
1877 to 1878	Do.	T. Perry, from 'The Vale of White Horse'	R. Walker ..	Robert Jay
			B. Spence ..	

YEAR.	MASTER.	HUNTSMAN.	1ST WHIPPER-IN.	2ND WHIPPER-IN.
1878 to 1879	Major H. F. Dent	T. Perry	B. Spence	G. Burrill
1879 to 1882	Do.	The Master	W. Bushell	..
		T. Perry, K. H.	1880—82	..
1882 to 1884	Do.	Fred Holland	T. Beeson	G. Burrill
1884 to 1888	Mr. George Elliot, M.P.	Fred Holland	C. Beames	G. Burrill, W. Iliffe F. Godson, T. Darch
1888 to 1896	Captain W. P. Wilson-Todd	Fred Holland	E. Parker	J. Maloney Wm. West A. Odams
1896 to 1898	Major H. F. Dent	Fred Holland	E. Parker	F. Parker W. Hankinson
			F. Parker	..
1898 to 1902	The Duke of Leeds	Fred Holland	F. Parker	W. Hankinson
			Will Tongue	Frank Summers
1902 to 1904	Do.	Harry Chandler, from 'The Morpeth'	Will Tongue	James Grange
			Tom Hawtin	..
1904 to 1906	Mr. John Moubray	Frank Freeman, from 1st Whipper- in, 'The Cheshire'	Charles Pocketts, from 'The Hurworth'	Will Hales Fred White
1906 to 1907	Do.	Sam Gillson, from 'South & West Wilts.'	Peter Farrelly, from 'The Quorn'	Do.
1907 to 1908	Do.	P. Farrelly	Ernest Cross	Tom Gray

APPENDIX B.

As Mr. Milbank and Mr. Duncombe both owned the hounds with which they hunted the country (1832-1867), and each disposed of them on ceasing to be Master ; there is no record of any " Bedale " hounds until Mr. Booth took over the country. [*Note.* I have not been able to obtain any private hound lists between 1832, 1867.]

The first entry of the " Bedale " in the Foxhound Kennel Stud Book, is for the year 1862. Two nine season hunters, " Active," from the Duke of Rutland, and " Lively " (Lifter, out of Lavender).

In the same book, the first record of any home-bred hounds is for the year 1870, when a couple or two were put on, their sires being from Mr. Cradock's and the Hurworth Kennels. There is then a break until 1874, when two couples by Remus (1872), Lord Yarborough's Bachelor, out of Lord Middleton's Rita (1866) were entered. He left three couples in the following year, and one couple in 1878.

From this date until 1890, the pack seems to have been entirely recruited by draft hounds, as on neither the dam's nor the sire's side, is anything worthy of mention to be found.

Since 1890, the Bedale bitches have done better, and although the stallion hounds have not always been provided in the Kennel ; it is more satisfactory to see that in eighteen years, an average of eight couples a year, home bred, have found their way into the Hound List.

In considering the different Kennels from which this outside blood has come, since the year 1870, they rank in the following order.

First, The Belvoir ; second, The Brocklesby ; third, The Bramham Moor ; fourth, The Holderness ; fifth, all about even ; Lord Middleton's, The Milton, The Cleveland, The York and Ainsty and The Grove.

202 THE BEDALE HOUNDS, 1832-1908

At the present date, mainly due to the purchase by the Duke of Leeds of the Belvoir draft, for two successive years—this pack stands pre-eminent, the Kennel being full of their blood, viz :—

DOGS.—Dexter ('95), Villager ('97), Vagabond ('97), Stormer ('99), and a draft dog, Velox ('02), a son of Villager.

BITCHES—Hopeful ('94), Verdant ('95). Sentiment ('97), Testy ('98), Harebell ('99), Rosamond ('99). To the above must be added some excellent working, and good looking hounds; tracing back to the Tyne-dale, Alfred (1897), his son, Alderman (1900), Holderness, Steadfast (1896), the South Durham, Streamer (1896), and the Oakley, Decimal (1897). The pedigree of Tyne-dale "Alfred" and Oakley "Decimal," coincide in rather a peculiar manner; and as the stock comes right in all ways, is worth mention.

Tynedale, "Alfred" was by Oakley, "Dancer" (1888) on his sire's side; by Belvoir, "Denmark" on his dam's. Oakley, "Decimal" by Belvoir, "Gambler" (1884) on the sire's side; by Oakley, "Dancer" on the dam's.

After consultation with the Huntsman, I have selected the two couples of dogs and bitches which are considered to have been best in their work—all round—at the close of the season 1907-08, and find they are bred as follows,

DOGS.

Sinbad, 1904.	Selim 1900 by Oakley, Sportsman 1891. Runaway 1895.	Southdown, Trifle 1900 by Warwickshire, Talbot 1895 Southdown, Comet 1894.
Hornet, 1904.	Belvoir, Hymen 1902 by Vagabond 1899. Heartless 1899.	Bella 1902 by Belvoir, Villager 1897. Belvoir, Blissful 1897,
Handel, 1905.	Belvoir, Hymen 1902	Definite 1903 by Lord Zetland's, Wellington 1899 Darling 1899 by Holderness, Steadfast 1896. Oakley, Dewdrop 1891.

Villager, 1907.	Velox 1902. by Belvoir, Villager 1897. Belvoir, Handmaid 1899.	Harebell 1904 by Belvoir, Hymen 1902 Bella 1902.
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BITCHES.

Harebell, 1904.	Belvoir, Hymen 1902	Bella 1902 (see Dog pedigree).
Artful, 1906.	Lord Middleton's, Dexter 1902 by Belvoir, Dexter 1895 Lord M's, Woodbine 1899	Anxious 1900 by Tynedale, Alfred 1897. Resolute 1897. Cotswold, Graphic 1892. Captain Johnstone's, Remnant 1894.
Clara, 1907.	Belvoir, Carnival 1902 by Belvoir, Stormer 1897 Belvoir, Candour 1896.	Roguish 1903 by Alderman 1900. Restless 1897. by Holderness, Gaffer 1889. Ringlet 1891.
Sanguine, 1907.	Marksman 1902 by Bramham Moor, Marmion 1894 Scornful 1900 by South Durham, Streamer 1896. Rosey 1896.	Saucy 1902 by Belvoir, Dexter 1895 Sentiment 1897.

The breeding of hounds is like that of bloodstock, somewhat of a lottery. Those that should turn out all that is desired, do not; and others you don't expect very much from, astonish you.

Perfect feet, with a lot of bone below the knee, carried right down into the foot is a *sine-qua-non* at the present day; at any rate on the flags. Perhaps for work, the foot can be *too* cat-like, and the shortness below the knee, excessive. A little more spread in the foot, and a trifle more length below the knee, might afford more elasticity when galloping and jumping.

Well sprung ribs, carried right back, are I think most necessary for constitution, and standing hard work. Then heads, necks, and shoulders.

I like a hound with a real typical fox-hound head,

(e.g. The Belvoir, Ragman, '06, or Helper, '03). They are generally rare workers, whatever else their shape may be. Necks and shoulders should be of the best; the neck not too lean. Like horses they get on in all shapes, and it is difficult to judge hounds' shoulders, until you have seen them gallop.

I think the main points to strive for in breeding are nose, drive, voice, and what is specially hereditary—"perseverance."

Having bred your hounds as you want them, in the above details, they are of no use for fox-catching unless they are in the very best of condition. A huntsman, a very old friend of mine, once said to me, "There are more foxes killed in Kennel than you have any idea of," As he was fond of accounting for his foxes, and rumour said "they often came back to kennel in a sack"; I looked at him with a somewhat puzzled expression, thinking he was giving himself away. "Oh, no," he said "It's not what you think, I mean 'condition.'"

This seems common sense. None of us if short of condition, and fagged, can do our best at any game. So with hounds; unless they are thoroughly fit and up to the mark in every way, we can hardly expect them to persevere on a cold scent. Last, but by no means least, comes the man who hunts the hounds. A bad huntsman will spoil the best pack of working hounds that ever was bred, in *half* a season. A good man—one who understands dog nature, who has the confidence of his hounds, does not flurry them at the wrong moment, but helps them at the right—will make a bad working pack into a good one, in a season. I have seen this take place more than once, and feel sure that the individuality of the huntsman has a lot to do with the working of a pack of hounds, *however* they may be bred.



